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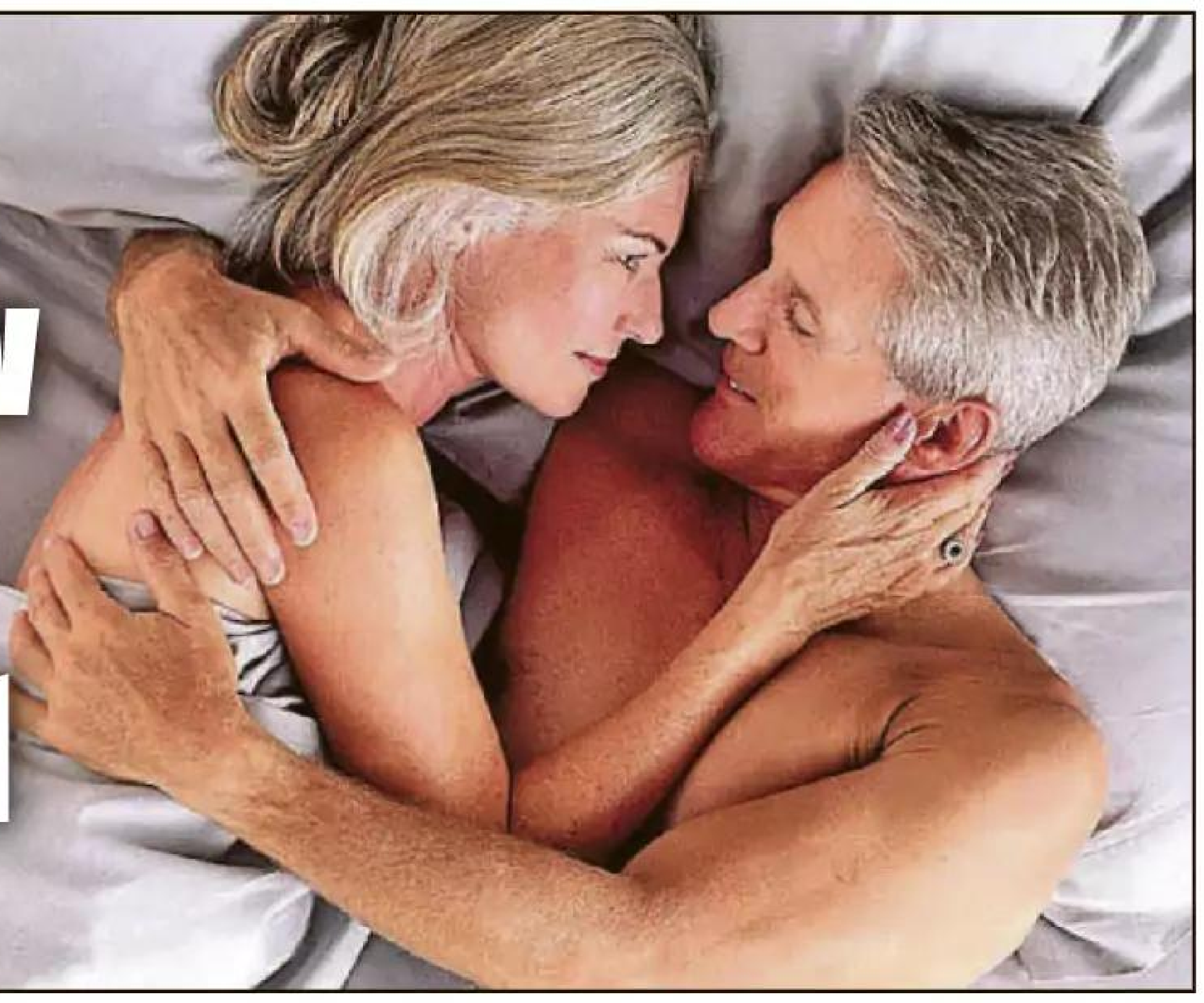
Dr Miriam Stoppard gives her advice on how your sex life in older age can be just as good

SEE PAGES 22 & 23



Lords warned of 'significant harm' to reputation if they block assisted dying

DON'T RUN DOWN CLOCK ON 'SAFE' RIGHT TO DIE LAW

BY **HANNA GEISSLER** Health Editor

PEERS must pass assisted dying legislation through the Lords or risk causing "significant harm" to its reputation if time runs out, campaigners claim.

Bill sponsor Lord Falconer will today ask the Lords to agree to provide further time for debates, including the House potentially starting earlier or sitting later.

A group of peers who oppose assisted dying have tabled most of more than 1,000 proposed changes to the landmark law.

But Sarah Wootton, the chief executive of campaigners Dignity in Dying, said terminally ill people were watching "as time is wasted that they do not have".

She warned: "Dying people don't have the luxury of time, yet a small but vocal minority of opponents in the House of Lords are attempting to run down the clock. We need proper progress toward a compassionate, safe assisted dying

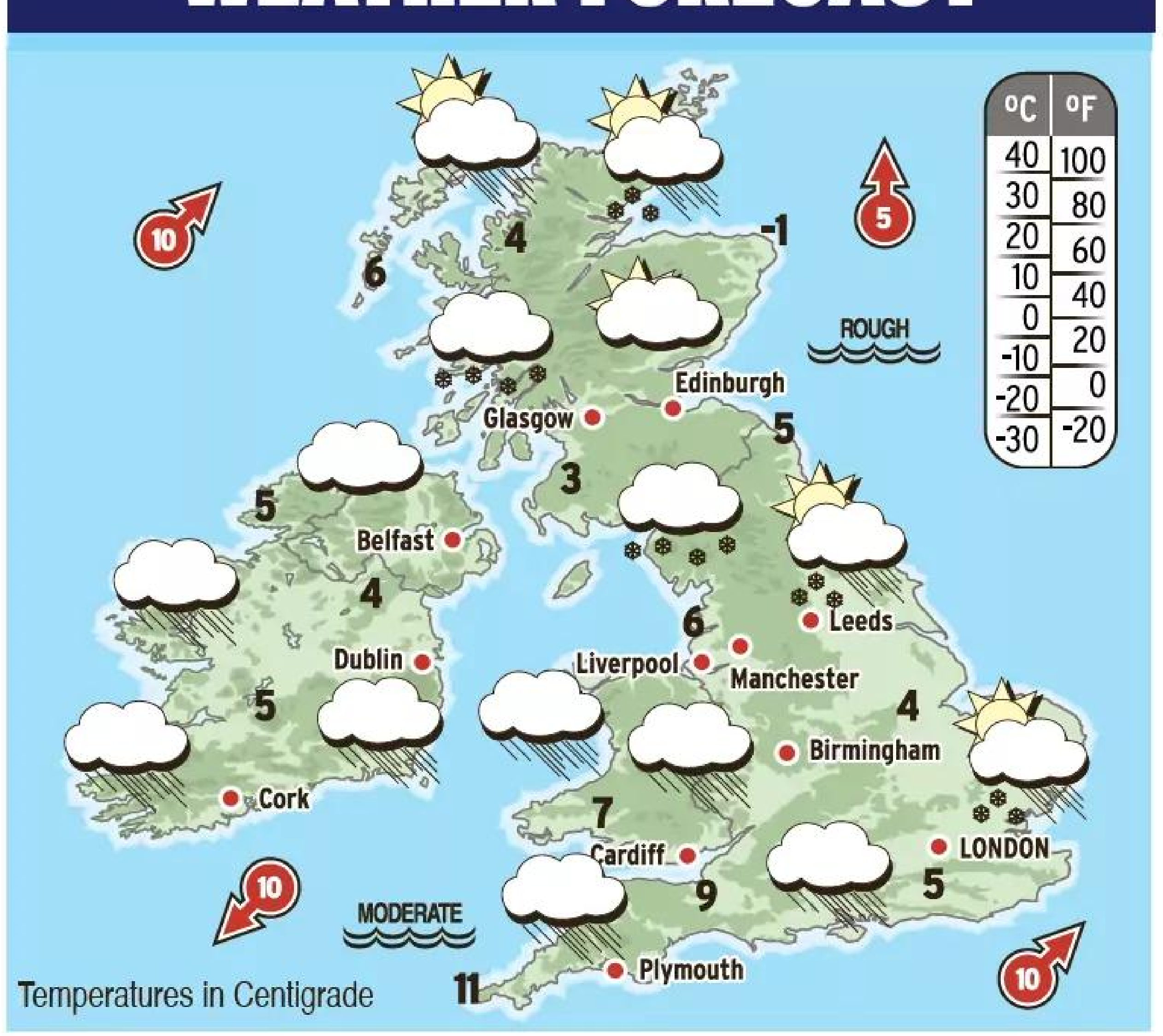
TURN TO PAGE 4

LET US CHOOSE
VOTE YES TO ASSISTED DYING.
DIGNITY IN DYING
YES TO CHOICE
KEITH.

Fiona's 'just wonderful' as the secret Traitor

SEE PAGE 11

WEATHER FORECAST



Temperatures in Centigrade

Today's summary: Cloudy start, heavy rain later

North West: Cloudy and damp with patchy light rain or drizzle. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 4C (39F).

Northern Ireland: Cloudy with light rain, heavier later. Gentle breeze. Cold, becoming milder. High 4C (39F).

Wales: Overcast with drizzle initially. Persistent downpours later. Gusty winds, turning chilly. High 6C (43F).

Midlands: Damp and overcast with drizzle or light rain at times. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 4C (39F).

North East/Yorks: Possibly a few snow flurries for a time and sleet later. Light winds. Very cold. High 3C (37F).

Scotland: Overcast skies throughout. Brighter spells later. Light winds, turning breezy, chilly. High 3C (37F).

East Anglia: Cloudy start, wet later. Winds increasing, feeling chilly throughout the day. High 4C (39F).

London/South East: Cloudy start, turning wet. Drizzle then heavier by evening. Strong southerly winds. High 9C (48F).

South: Dull and wet with outbreaks of rain, turning heavy later. Moderate northerly winds. High 9C (48F).

South West: Wet with outbreaks of rain, possibly heavy at times. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

Channel Isles: Cloudy with heavy showers for a while. Heavy rain later. Fresh westerly winds. High 11C (52F).

Sea: North Sea: Rough. Irish Sea: Moderate. Channel: Rough.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Expect cloudy skies with rain, turning heavier by late. Winds intensify, becoming brisk. Milder temperatures prevail throughout the period.

SIX-DAY FORECAST

Temperatures in Centigrade

	FRI		SAT		SUN		MON		TUE		WED	
	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max
London	0	4	0	4	3	5	5	8	4	8	4	7
Belfast	-1	4	0	4	4	6	4	7	3	7	3	6
Birmingham	-1	3	-2	3	2	3	4	5	2	6	3	6
Cardiff	0	6	1	6	5	6	5	9	4	8	4	7
Glasgow	-1	4	0	4	2	4	3	6	1	6	2	6
Manchester	-1	4	-1	3	3	3	4	6	2	6	4	6
Newcastle	1	4	-1	3	1	2	3	4	3	6	3	5
Norwich	2	4	-1	4	2	4	4	6	3	6	4	6
Plymouth	3	8	4	8	8	9	7	10	6	10	6	8

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	TEMP (max)
Aberdeen	0.0	1.65	0	4
Aberporth	3.0	0.05	5	6
Alnwick	3.5	0.19	2	4
Belfast	0.0	0.05	3	4
Birmingham	1.3	0.05	2	5
B'mouth	3.0	0.09	2	7
Bristol	3.5	0.34	3	7
Cardiff	4.0	0.67	4	7
Durham	1.8	0.02	1	5
Edinburgh	1.3	0.02	2	4
Glasgow	4.3	0.00	2	4
Hull	4.6	0.10	2	5
Ipswich	3.1	0.24	0	5
Leeds	4.9	0.05	2	5
Lincoln	5.4	0.08	2	6
London	5.8	0.28	2	6
Manchester	3.5	0.24	3	6
Oxford	5.0	0.00	2	7
S'hampton	4.6	0.24	4	7
St Andrews	0.0	0.11	1	4

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 10.48pm, sets: 10.29am
SUN rises London: 8.04am, sets: 4.10pm
Manchester rises: 8.22am, sets: 4.09pm

Last Quarter
10 January

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(5.00am), (5.27pm)
Liverpool	(2.14am), (2.30pm)
Greenock	(3.55am), (3.41pm)
Dover	(2.05am), (2.32pm)

Britain Extremes: (24 hours to 11pm Tuesday)

Warmest: Isles Of Scilly, 7c (44f).
Coldest: Shap, -11c (12f).
Wettest: Isles Of Scilly, 0.57ins.
Sunniest: Lyneham, 7.3hrs.

Lighting-up times

Belfast	4.18pm-8.42am
Birmingham	4.13pm-8.15am
Bristol	4.20pm-8.13am
Glasgow	4.03pm-8.43am
London	4.10pm-8.03am
Manchester	4.09pm-8.21am
Newcastle	3.58pm-8.27am

Europe forecast

Today

Amsterdam	Cloudy	3C/37F
Brussels	Rain	3C/37F
Dublin	Rain	5C/41F
Frankfurt	Sleet	2C/36F
Geneva	Sleet	3C/37F
Lisbon	Drizzle	15C/59F
Madrid	Cloudy	7C/45F
Paris	Rain	8C/46F
Rome	Fair	10C/50F

Tomorrow

Amsterdam	Sleet	4C/39F
Brussels	Rain	4C/39F
Dublin	Fair	5C/41F
Frankfurt	Rain	5C/41F
Geneva	Showers	5C/41F
Lisbon	Drizzle	15C/59F
Madrid	Fair	12C/54F
Paris	Rain	7C/45F
Rome	Thunder	16C/61F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F
Amsterdam	Snow	0	32
Athens	Shwrs	19	66
Barcelona	Sunny	6	43
Berlin	Sunny	-4	25
Budapest	Cloudy	-1	30
Cairo	Sunny	21	70
Cape Town	Sunny	23	73
Casablanca	Fair	14	57
Corfu	Thndr	18	64
Dublin	Cloudy	4	39
Dubrovnik	Rain	10	50
Faro	Cloudy	10	50
Florence	Fair	6	43
Gibraltar	Fair	12	54
Guernsey	Cloudy	8	46
Hong Kong	Sunny	15	59
Istanbul	Fair	17	63
Jersey	Cloudy	8	46
Larnaca	Fair	19	66
Las Palmas	Shwrs	18	64
Los Angeles	Cloudy	17	63
Luxor	Sunny	25	77
Malaga	Fair	10	50
Mallorca	Sunny	11	52
Malta	Thndr	16	61
Melbourne	Sunny	40	104
Miami	Sunny	27	81
Moscow	Snow	-6	21
Nairobi	Sunny	24	75
New Delhi	Fair	12	54
New York	Cloudy	3	37
Nice	Sunny	9	48
Nicosia	Drizzle	17	63
Perth	Sunny	29	84
Prague	Fair	-5	23
Singapore	Thndr	30	86
Stockholm	Cloudy	-7	19
Sydney	Sunny	31	88
Tel Aviv	Sunny	22	72
Tenerife	Rain	21	70
Toronto	Cloudy	1	34
Tunis	Drizzle	12	54
Venice	Fair	5	41
Vienna	Cloudy	-1	30
Warsaw	Cloudy	-10	14

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Reeves' taxes 'driving British jobs overseas'

BY **DAVID WILLIAMSON**
Chief Political Commentator

RACHEL Reeves is accused of driving jobs out of the UK by making it cheaper to pay overseas workers for back-office roles.

The Treasury has been warned it is missing out on millions in tax revenue because British people are not being hired.

The Chancellor's decision to hike employers' national insurance contributions is blamed for pushing up the cost of employing someone in the UK.

Alex Fenton, head of the Legends Agency, which helps British businesses hire South African workers, said: "The government claims it is championing young and working people, yet its anti-business agenda is producing the opposite outcome, with unemployment at its highest level since the pandemic.

"As wages and taxes continue to rise, businesses are increasingly being forced to replace British workers with equally qualified overseas staff who cost a fraction of the price. Even sectors once thought immune to off-shoring, such as construction and hospitality, are moving back-office roles overseas."

Unemployment hit 5.1% in the three months to October. There is particular concern about the challenges facing young people, with the number of 18 to 24-year-olds out of work increasing by 85,000 in the three months to October – the largest rise since November 2022.

Shadow Chancellor Sir Mel Stride pointed to how people in South Africa are now working as admin assistants, accounts staff, rota managers and in back-office and customer service roles for British construction and hospitality companies.

He said the NI hike "forced businesses to pay an additional £900 national insurance for a worker on the average wage", leading to "job losses, frozen pay, cancelled investment, and now a worrying rise in jobs being sent abroad".

He added: "Labour's NI hike is costing young British workers jobs and the UK economy millions in lost tax revenue."

Daniel Herring of the Centre for Policy Studies said the policy "has a disproportionate impact on the lowest paid and the young".

Meanwhile financial advisers the deVere Group said the number of high earners leaving the UK could "potentially double" in 2026.

Sir Mel Stride warns NI hike is costing millions to the Treasury

Care workers on less than minimum pay

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**

MORE than seven out of 10 care workers are paid less than the minimum wage, largely explaining the 111,000 vacancies in the sector.

Vulnerable people who need support are suffering as a result, said Dan Archer, whose firm Visiting Angels provides care for 3,000 people.

He said low pay also helps explain the high levels of staff turnover.

Travel

A survey found many care providers, including some contracted by councils, only pay home carers for the time they spend with clients, not for travel between them.

While employers are not expected to pay staff for commuting, travel during the working day should be included in working hours. But this would mean 72% of care employees are paid less than the national living wage of £12.21 an hour.

The data comes from an anonymised survey of carers by Mr Archer.

It "suggests 78.1% non-compliance with minimum wage laws", he said, adding: "The impact is 111,000 vacant jobs, driven by the way care workers are paid and treated".

CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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OPINION 12 TV 37 LETTERS 42 STARS 44 CITY 47 SPORT 50 PLUS PUZZLES PULLOUT

Helen's Golden moment

Dame Helen at the Golden Eve ceremony, and with husband Taylor, left. Winner Sarah Jessica, below

BY **FRANCES MILLAR**

DAME Helen Mirren began awards season in style – collecting a lifetime achievement gong at a ceremony just for her and Sarah Jessica Parker.

The 80-year-old was given the Cecil B DeMille trophy for her extraordinary contribution to the entertainment industry.

Dame Helen posed on the Beverly Hills red carpet in her blush Stella McCartney dress with director husband Taylor Hackford, 81.

The first Golden Eve ceremony was a taster for Sunday's Golden Globes, where she is up for best female for Paramount+ drama MobLand. Dame Helen, who already has an Oscar, Emmy, Bafta and Tony, admitted she still doubts her talents.

She said: "I'm starstruck and I find myself acting opposite Bruce Willis or Will Smith or Harrison [Ford] or Al Pacino, and it's like, 'Oh, my God, can I handle this?'" Sex and the City star Sarah, 60, got the Carol Burnett Award for outstanding achievement in TV.

The Queen is celebrating five years of her book club

Queen says 'make room for reading'

Camilla hails joy of a good book

BY **EMILY FERGUSON** Royal Editor

THE Queen has praised the benefits of sitting down with a good book as she said it is "more urgent than ever" to get people reading.

Marking the fifth anniversary of her Reading Room book club, founded during the coronavirus lockdown, Camilla said: "Books do make life better."

What started as a simple recommendation of books online has now reached more than 12 million people in over 180 countries.

And in 2023, The Queen's Reading Room became a charity with a very simple mission: to spread the joy of reading.

Distractions

However, Camilla is alarmed that global reading rates are at their lowest. Only one in two UK adults reads a book in a year, and 46% of people say they struggle to finish one due to the distractions around them.

The National Literacy Trust, of which Camilla is patron, found just a third of UK eight-to-18-year-olds said they enjoyed reading in 2025 – the lowest level since the question was first asked in 2005.

The Queen's Reading Room motto for 2026 is "Make Room for Reading" as it urges people to find just five minutes a day to switch off and read. Neuroscientific research commissioned by the charity found reading for this amount of time can cut stress, boost concentration and help us feel more connected.

Reading was also found to be as valuable to health and wellbeing as walking 10,000 steps and eating five daily portions of fruit and veg.

The Queen said: "I am so proud of what my charity has achieved...to bring books to people who need them most. Reading truly changes how we perceive, how we think and connect. At a time when global reading rates are at their lowest, my charity's mission feels more urgent than ever. Books do make life better, and this is only the beginning."

Camilla has personally recommended 76 books over the past five years, with the King, the Princess of Wales and Queen Mathilde of Belgium all contributing their own selections.

More than 120 authors have also recommended their favourite reads.

The charity hosts an annual literary festival, has its own podcast and has donated more than 2,300 books to 11 grassroots locations.

This includes 1,400 books given to inpatients at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in West London, as well as supporting reading groups at St Mungo's homeless shelters and working with domestic violence refuges.

PEERS WARNED NOT TO

‘Lords, fulfil your

LEGALISE ASSISTED DYING VOTE YES TODAY
CAMPAIGN FOR DIGNITY IN DYING.
VOTE FOR DIGNITY VOTE FOR THE LEADBEATER BILL
CAMPAIGN FOR DIGNITY IN DYING.
COURAGE CALLS TO COURAGE EVERYWHERE
YES TO CHOICE.
ASSISTED DYING IS NOT ABOUT ENDING LIFE! IT'S ABOUT SHORTENING DEATH FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL!
CAMPAIGN FOR DIGNITY IN DYING
VOTE YES TO ASSISTED DYING.
CAMPAIGN FOR DIGNITY IN DYING.

Supporters of the bill demonstrate outside Parliament when MPs voted in 2024; below, assisted dying campaigner Dame Esther Rantzen and, right, Lord Falconer, the sponsor of the bill in the House of Lords

FROM PAGE ONE

law.” Lord Falconer of Thoroton told the Daily Express: “The Lords need to fulfil their responsibilities to the bill in time for Parliament as a whole to come to a decision before the end of the session.

“Not to do so would risk damaging the reputation of the Lords and would let down all of those who are looking to Parliament to resolve this issue in a timely way.”

Another 10 days have been allocated this year to let peers consider all the proposed amendments.

However the bill will become law only if both the Commons and the Lords agree on its wording by the end of the parliamentary session, which is expected to happen in early May.

Lord Falconer said that the pioneering bill had already received “an unprecedented amount of scrutiny in both the House of Commons and the Lords”.

He added: “Under normal circumstances, the time allocated for debate in the Lords would be enough for peers to do their proper job of examining the bill and suggesting any amendments that may help improve it.

“However, the sheer number of amendments that have been put down and the slow progress made so far means that some extra time may well be needed.”

Ms Wootton added: “The public, MPs and a growing number of peers on all sides of this debate are clear: we need proper progress toward a compassionate, safe assisted dying law, so terminally ill people are no longer forced to suffer against their wishes.”

EXPRESS CRUSADE
GIVE US OUR LAST RIGHTS

If the bill falls at the end of this session, it could be brought back to Parliament and forced through by MPs using the Parliament Act.

However, this strategy would rely on either the government or an MP who is drawn near the top of the Private Member’s Bill ballot taking up the legislation.

It would also delay the bill’s passage into law until 2027.

Lord Falconer’s motion today has been backed by four senior peers, who wrote to colleagues urging them to support the plea for extra time.

They are crossbencher and retired judge Baroness Butler-Sloss who opposes the bill, former Tory Cabinet minister Baron Young, ex-Labour Leader of the Lords Baroness Jay of Paddington and Baron Dholakia, the onetime deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords.

Their email to peers highlighted that the bill has received six days of debate plus a number of select committee hearings since it was passed on from the Commons at the end of June.

There are an extra 10 days allocated between now and April 24. The message went on: “Under normal circumstances the time allotted would be sufficient to scrutinise properly this important bill.

“We have made uncharacteristically slow progress.

“The bill is currently in committee where there are in total around 87 groups of amendments.

“After over 17 hours of committee over four days we have got through 10 groups.”

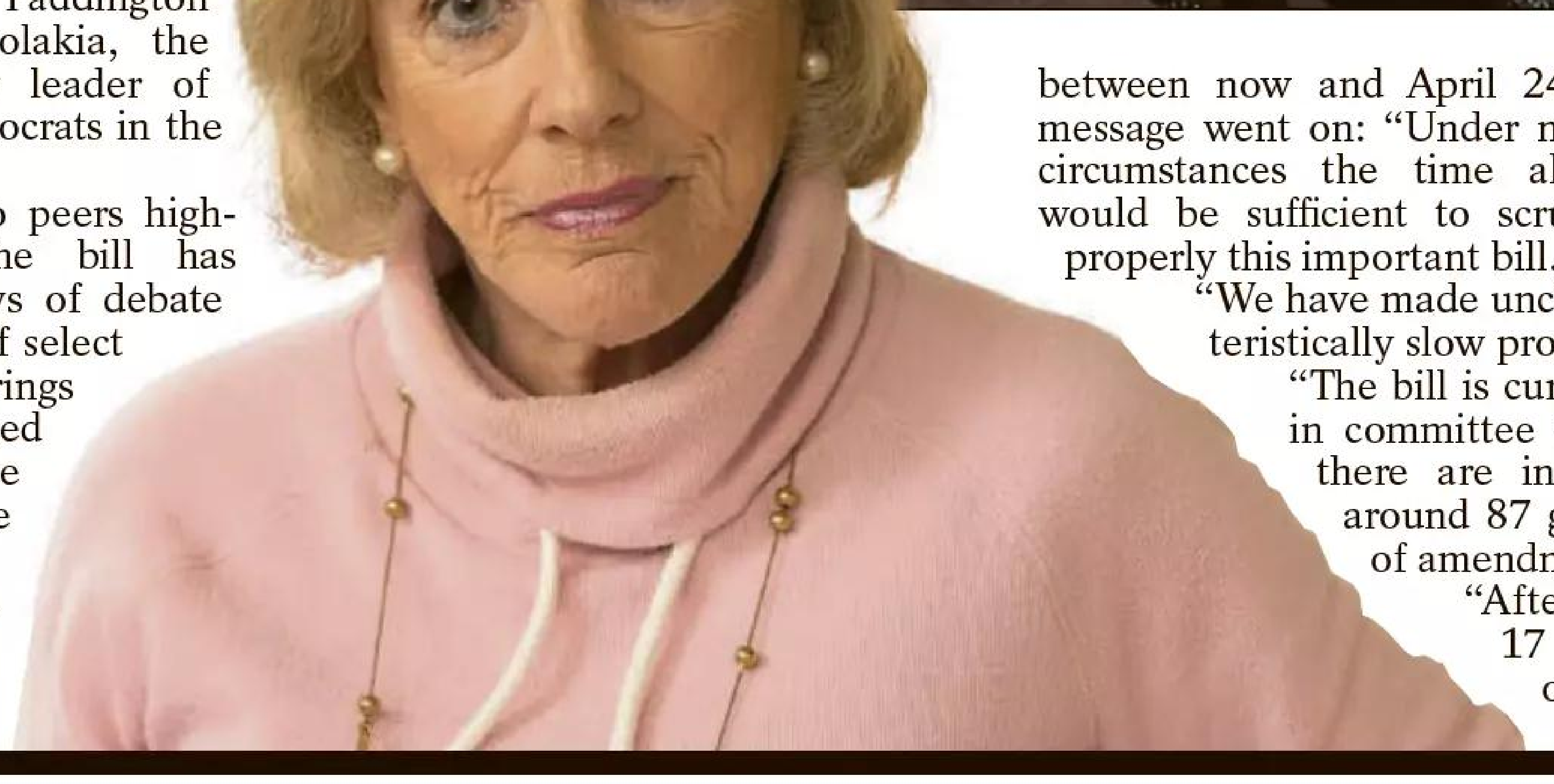
The peers warned that the House would be “unable to fulfil our responsibilities to this bill without some means of moving the process forward more effectively”.

They described Lord Falconer’s motion requesting more time as “both necessary and uncontentious”, and their email added: “We are a self-regulating chamber and by approving this motion we can demonstrate that we take our responsibilities seriously and to proceed with our affairs so as to meet the expectations of the public and of the elected chamber.

“Namely, that robust and effective scrutiny can be applied within a realistic and workable timeframe.

Compassion

“To prove unable to provide proper scrutiny within a reasonable time-frame risks doing significant harm to the reputation of the Lords.” The plea for more time comes after Dame Esther Rantzen



responsibilities...'

For my
FOR
DREW.
Kim Leadbeater MP: Thank you for giving us hope.
GIVE ME CHOICE OVER MY DEATH
CAMPAIGN FOR DIGNITY IN DYING
YES TO CHOICE.
CAMPAIGN FOR DIGNITY IN DYING.
Legal assisted dying Let Us Choose
Kim Leadbeater Thank you for giving us hope
ACT FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL
GIVE ME CHOICE
CAMPAIGN FOR RICHARD
T US CHOOS
E ASSISTED D
CAMPAIGN FOR KEITH.
CAMPAIGN FOR DIGNITY IN DYING.
YES TO DIGNITY
YES TO DIGNITY
YES TO CHOICE
VOTE FOR DIGNITY
VOTE FOR THE LEADBEATER BILL
CAMPAIGN FOR DIGNITY IN DYING.
DYING PEOPLE

urged Express readers to write to members of the House of Lords and share their stories of seeing loved ones suffer difficult deaths.

In a New Year's message, the former That's Life! presenter and Childline founder, who has been diagnosed with terminal lung cancer, said: "Your compassion and eloquence may at last touch their hearts before it's too late."

The fight for the bill is supported by the Express crusade Give Us Our Last Rights.

Labour MP Kim Leadbeater's Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill has sparked a national conversation about improving end-of-life care.

Care minister Stephen Kinnock, who voted for the bill on its way through the Commons, has announced an additional £25million in capital funding for hospices.

The extra investment will help hospice management to upgrade their facilities and digital infrastructure.

Ms Leadbeater called the increased funding for hospices "extremely welcome". She continued: "As Stephen Kinnock has said, the debate around assisted dying has served as a catalyst for improvements in palliative and end-of-life care, and helped to push it up the political agenda."

The MP added: "Hospices do tremendous work every day of the week and I strongly believe that, as has happened elsewhere in the world, offering people choice at the end of their lives must go hand-in-hand with improvements to palliative care."

OPINION: PAGE 12

TO READ ALL THE BEST POLITICAL STORIES OF THE DAY GO TO EXPRESS.CO.UK/POLITICS ▶

COMMENT

SARAH WOOTTON

Dignity In Dying Chief Executive

WE are closer than ever before to achieving safe, compassionate law change that will give real choice to dying people.

But progress now risks being stalled by a small but vocal group of opponents in the House of Lords, where the Assisted Dying Bill must pass if it is to become law.

A decisive majority of MPs has twice backed the Bill. The prime minister has reaffirmed the primacy of the Commons over the unelected Lords.

The public is clear: it wants world-class end-of-life care and the option of assisted dying with strict safeguards.

The task before peers is not to thwart that mandate, but to scrutinise the Bill properly and allow it to progress. Yet a handful of hardline opponents have chosen a different path.

A fringe group of eight unelected peers have tabled two-thirds of the 1,100-plus amendments, an unprecedented attempt to run down the clock.

This has caused mounting frustration across the House, including among peers who oppose assisted dying but believe the Lords' reputation as a revising chamber, not a blocking chamber, must be upheld.

Desperate

Meanwhile, dying people are watching from the public gallery as time is wasted that they do not have. Some are forced to suffer against their wishes, some travel abroad for assistance, others take desperate measures alone at home. The status quo is neither compassionate nor safe.

Progress elsewhere shows what is possible. New York State is on the cusp of legalisation, joining states across the US, most of Australia and all of New Zealand. Uruguay joined other Latin American nations in legalising the option in October.

France debates its Bill this month, with laws in place across Europe. The Isle of Man has passed a law that is now awaiting Royal Assent, Jersey's draft bill returns for debate the week after next, while Scotland's bill is approaching the final stretch.

Yesterday, the UK government revealed an extra £25million funding boost for hospices – in addition to the £100m last December – with Care Minister Stephen Kinnock explicit that the Assisted Dying Bill has been a catalyst for positive change.

As the Bill returns to the House of Lords this week, the remaining parliamentary time must be used sensibly and fairly.

The reputation of Parliament is at stake, but most importantly so are the dignity, wishes and safety of dying people.

Publicans to protest at mass rally

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**

PUB landlords will march on Westminster on January 30 in protest over a huge rise in business rates that could force them to shut.

Those taking part include Andy Lennox, of the Old Thatch Inn in Wimborne, Dorset, who has been leading a campaign for bars to ban Labour MPs.

He said: "All the trade bodies and a lot of the bigger organisations are starting to organise for proper industrial action."

Ash Corbett-Collins, of the Campaign for Real Ale, said: "Instead of months of uncertainty and the prospect of thousands of viable pubs having to close for good, the Prime Minister and Chancellor should announce a rethink."

Business rates for the average pub are to rise by £6,000, while 4,800 of the smallest boozers will be hit with a business rates bill for the first time, according to the British Beer and Pub Association.

Downing Street said ministers are in talks with the pub trade.

Met officers failed to vet new recruits

BY **MARGARET DAVIS**

BRITAIN'S biggest police force failed to properly vet recruits in a scramble to find 4,557 new officers.

Senior officers at the Metropolitan Police did not meet guidelines over a three-and-a-half year period, a report found.

From July 2019 to March 2023, forces in England and Wales were told to recruit 20,000 officers to replace those cut during austerity.

The report said: "The focus appeared to be on speed and output; this unintentionally compromised integrity."

It added: "A series of decisions inadvertently increased risk."

The Met estimates that around 1,200 people who joined the force may have had their vetting refused normally, out of around 27,300 applications.

Assistant Commissioner Rachel Williams said: "Some historical practices did not meet hiring and vetting standards we have today. We identified these issues ourselves and have fixed them."

'Starmer won't defy European judges on Isis bride'

Begum talks to BBC in 2023

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**
and **CHRISTIAN CALGIE**

SIR Keir Starmer will not ignore European judges if they rule jihadi bride Shamima Begum should be allowed to return to the UK, Nigel Farage claims.

The Reform UK leader said the Prime Minister has previously professed his "love" for the human rights convention, which many argue has prevented successive governments from securing Britain's borders.

Shadow Justice Secretary Robert Jenrick said the looming showdown between the UK and European Court of Human Rights is a "disaster waiting to happen".

Mr Jenrick added: "Starmer has said he'll always comply with the court. And his Attorney General was her lawyer." AG Lord Hermer represented Begum in her legal battle to return to the UK before joining Labour's government.

Asked if Sir Keir would ignore the European Convention on Human Rights, Mr Farage said: "Good lord, no! His second speech as Prime Minister, at the despatch box, was my love and my belief in the European Convention on Human Rights. So, the answer is, no, they will not." Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood has vowed to fight European judges over Begum's bid to return to the UK.

Sceptical Shadow Justice Secretary Robert Jenrick

The East London schoolgirl travelled to Syria aged 15 in 2015 to join Isis, married a terrorist and had three children, who died as infants.

In 2019, Home Secretary Sajid Javid stripped her of British citizenship on the basis that she posed a threat to national security.

The following year a tribunal ruled Begum – whose parents have Bangladeshi heritage – was "a citizen of Bangladesh by descent" and removing her British nationality would not make her stateless.

This decision was upheld by the UK's Supreme Court in 2024. But Begum's hopes of returning to Britain were revived after the European Court of Human Rights formally told the Home Office to justify its decision to strip her of British citizenship. Facing questions over the controversy on Monday, the Home Secretary said: "The case against Shamima Begum has been litigated by the previous government all the way to the UK Supreme Court, who did not hear the last appeal on this because all legal questions have been now dealt with.

"We have accepted that position as a government in this case. That will not change. We will robustly defend this at the European Court of Human Rights. That is the approach this government is taking and we will defend the position that has already been set out by all of our courts right up to the UK Supreme Court."

Begum's lawyers branded the move an "unprecedented opportunity" as it paves the way for a fresh clash between the UK and Strasbourg, where the European court sits.

Its judges have asked the government whether it broke human rights and anti-trafficking laws, her key legal argument. The formal "communication" between the European Court and Home Office will reignite fears Begum could eventually be allowed to travel back to the UK.

It signals that Strasbourg believes her human rights may have been breached. Many cases submitted to the court are thrown out before they reach this stage.

Now 26, Begum is still living in the al-Roj camp, Syria, which is home to thousands of former jihadis, after losing all of her appeals in the UK.

The European court's final rulings are technically binding, but there is no enforcement mechanism.

EXPRESS VOTE

Should Keir Starmer comply with human rights court in Shamima Begum case?

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Israel accuses UK cops over 'antisemitism'

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**
Home Affairs Editor

ISRAEL has accused police chiefs of allowing antisemitism to be "normalised under the rule of law" in the row over the "scapegoating" of Maccabi Tel Aviv football fans.

Diplomats blasted Craig Guildford, West Midlands Chief Constable, for his admission that the force sat on intelligence before the Israeli team met Aston Villa in Birmingham.

Travelling fans were banned over hooliganism fears, accused of "indiscriminate attacks on Muslim taxi drivers, flag burning, marches and Islamophobic chanting" during a match in Amsterdam, This was denied by Dutch police.

The West Midlands force has now said armed local mobs planned to attack Israeli supporters.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry called it "utterly disgraceful". It said: "There is a specific term for the phenomenon of scapegoating Israelis and Jews while exonerating the true perpetrators – jihadists seeking to harm Jews. It is called antisemitism. Regrettably, this is the reality of Britain today."

Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp said: "The Home Secretary has serious questions to answer."

COMMENT: PAGE 12

Supporter with Israel flag at Villa Park. Inset, Mr Guildford

On-run killer and inmate are arrested

BY **CLAIRE HAYHURST**

A MURDERER and a second inmate who fled an open jail on New Year's Day were arrested separately yesterday.

Matthew Armstrong, 35, and Daniel Washbourne, 40, had been on the run from HMP Leyhill in Cromhall, Glos.

Armstrong, jailed for life for killing a man during a robbery in Rugby in 2009, was caught near Henley-in-Arden train station, Warks, at noon after being spotted by a member of the public.

Washbourne, who has convictions for violence, was held in Bristol at 1.30am. Police said: "Armstrong has also been arrested on suspicion of robbery."

Meanwhile a man serving a 23-year sentence for attempted murder has absconded from HMP Thorn Cross.

Kieran Cameron, 43, was reported missing from the open prison in Warrington, Cheshire, on Tuesday evening. He was jailed for an attempted murder in Dorset in 2016.

Migrant gang went on £1m crime spree

BY **JON HARRIS**

FIVE Albanians were last night facing jail after admitting a £1million crime spree.

The gang were linked to 44 raids across eight counties. Targets included mansions in the millionaire village of Prestbury, Cheshire, home to many Premier League footballers.

Police who trapped the gang following a 10-month investigation found a picture of one burglar posing with wads of cash and some of the stolen watches.

They were detained in West Midlands raids on July 2 last year.

Endrit Nikolli, 27, George Lleshaj, 31, Krisjian Dedndreaj, 28, who live together in Walsall, Sidorjan Lleshi, 26, of Sheffield and Kristian Gropcaj, 30, of Birmingham, admitted charges including conspiracy to burgle during separate hearings at Chester crown court.

Nikolli's girlfriend Jade Tubb, 33, of Walsall admitted conspiracy to posses criminal property.

All will be sentenced in February.

U.S. COAST GUARD
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The Marinera, and shadowed by US Coast Guards, above; chopper closes in, right; US troops also seize Sophia, below, in the Caribbean

Britain helps U.S. seize Russia-linked oil tanker

BY **MARTYN BROWN** Political Editor

BRITISH forces helped US special ops troops seize a Russia-linked oil tanker in a dramatic Atlantic raid which the Kremlin said might spark a "crisis".

RAF spy planes and a refuelling ship took part in the operation 300 miles off Scotland, said the MoD.

The taking of the Marinera, said to be en route to a Russian Arctic port, may prove a flashpoint in relations between the West and Moscow.

Donald Trump seemed to take a swipe at America's Nato partners following the capture, suggesting the US was "always there" for the alliance but the opposite was not true.

The US president added online: "The only nation that China and Russia fear and respect is the DJT (Donald J Trump) REBUILT USA. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!!".

The rusty tanker, whose crew was accused of breaching US oil sanctions on Venezuela, was last night in American custody after a two-week chase. Russia had rushed a submarine and surface ships to guard the vessel yesterday morning as it tried to evade Mr Trump's Venezuela blockade but US forces swooped from a helicopter.

It is believed that elite troops from the US Navy SEAL Team 6 and the SAS-style Delta Force that captured Venezuela tyrant Nicolas Maduro at the weekend were involved.

In a second raid by US airborne forces, the Venezuela-linked tanker Sophia was captured in the Caribbean.

Defence Secretary John Healey praised the UK forces' "skill and professionalism in support of a successful US interception" of the Marinera, recently renamed from Bella1.

He added: "This ship, with a nefarious history, is part of a Russian-Iranian axis of sanctions evasion which is fuelling terrorism, conflict and misery from the Middle East to Ukraine. The UK will continue to step up our action against shadow fleet activity to protect our national security." Sources said the ship had flown a false flag and is viewed as involved in illegal activity linked to Hezbollah.

Russia's transport ministry said it had granted the Marinera, previously flagged in Guyana, a "temporary permit to sail under the Russian Federation flag" on Christmas Eve.

Moscow's former deputy foreign minister Andrei Fedorov had warned that such a seizure would "be considered as [an] attack on Russia, and it could lead to [a] very critical or maybe even crisis situation in relations between Russia and US".

11 years for people smugglers' key dinghy supplier

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**
Home Affairs Editor

Adem Savas, 45, who stashed small boats and engines in lorries, left, and warehouses

THE "most significant supplier" of small boats and their engines to people-smuggling gangs was jailed for 11 years yesterday.

Turkish national Adem Savas, 45, made millions by selling the dinghies and motors for around £4,000 each.

Detectives believe they were used in thousands of crossings to the UK, including numerous fatal voyages.

He is thought to have supplied equipment used in half of the Channel trips in 2023 alone.

Savas hid his boats in lorries linked to a Dutch haulage firm and had them taken from Turkey to Bulgaria.

From there they were stored in safe houses in Germany. He was unmasked during a probe into another smuggling kingpin.

Hewa Rahimpur is thought to have brought more than 10,000 people into the UK – and Savas was a key supplier. Rob Jones, director general of operations at the UK's National Crime Agency, which led the probe with Belgian authorities, said: "Savas was without doubt the most significant supplier of boats and engines to people-smuggling gangs involved in organising deadly crossings in the Channel." Savas admitted people smuggling offences and being a member of an organised crime group at a court in Bruges, Belgium. He was jailed and fined £347,000. Three co-defendants were given sentences totalling 38 years. Rahimpur was imprisoned in 2023.

● A TEENAGER has denied putting the lives of 46 migrants at risk by piloting their small boat across the Channel on Sunday.

Afghan national Aman Naseri, 18, was charged with endangering others during a sea crossing without a valid entry clearance. This is the first alleged offence of its kind after it became law, also on Sunday. He is next due in court on February 9.

MUM'S SLIMMING SUCCESS

'I lost 6st after being inspired by my gran'

BY **LUCY THORNTON**

A MUM-OF-THREE says people assume she was on weight loss injections after she lost six stone. But Eleanor Brown's transformation was all down to her gran.

The 24-year-old had been desperate to lose weight for years, trying fad diets and weight loss pills. Things even got to the point where she avoided leaving the house as she was ashamed of her size.

But it all changed when she was inspired to join her local Slimming World group by her gran Joan, 77, who was already a member.

Eleanor, who lives with partner James and her three children Grace, seven, Evan, four, and Laila, two, said: "People assume I've used weight loss injections but I lost weight eating healthily.

Struggling

"Like lots of mums, for years I put myself last. My weight crept up after my second baby during lockdown – I went from 13st to nearly 17st in no time.

"I was struggling with back pain and I felt desperate. I went to the doctor who prescribed weight loss pills, but they did nothing. Diets were even worse – restrictive, miserable and I'd quit by day two. Something had to change.

"I watched my grandma Joan transform her life with Slimming World. One evening, I joined her to see what it was all about.

"I expected the room to be full of people her age, yet I was amazed to find other young parents as well as men and women from all walks of life.

"I've made so many new friends as we're all united by the same goal.

"That first week, I threw myself into the healthy eating plan and I lost 8lbs. It was a life-changing moment for me. For the first time, I realised losing weight was possible."

Joan lost 3st at Slimming World and loves her granddaughter being at club meetings. She said: "Sharing my experience with Eleanor has made it extra special, and I'm proud of her."

Eleanor, from Middleton in Leeds, added: "I did ballet as a child and I begged my mum to buy the DVD so I could watch myself. We rushed home, put it on...I burst out crying saying, 'I don't want to be the little fat one'. That insecurity stayed with me for years.

"Before losing weight, I was constantly exhausted and felt mentally drained. I avoided leaving the house. Now, I look forward to going out and getting dressed up. I'm so much more confident – I even spoke at my sister's baby shower, something I'd never have done before."

She swapped takeaways for healthy versions at home – chicken Szechuan, pizza and kebabs.

Jane Masefield, Eleanor's Slimming World consultant, said: "Eleanor has been nothing short of amazing.

"Watching her grow in confidence and positivity has been such a joy."

The new slim Eleanor and how she was before weight loss inset

1.6m of us used weight loss drugs in last year

BY **GILES SHELDRICK**
Chief reporter

AT least 1.6 million adults in England, Wales and Scotland have used fat-loss drugs in the past year.

But twice that number are interested in using injections such as Wegovy and Mounjaro, despite research showing that weight is regained within 20 months of stopping the treatment.

Researchers from University College London found use of the treatment was twice as common among women compared to men, and more common among those aged between 45-55. Current use has far outstripped forecasts.

Lead author Professor Sarah Jackson, from the UCL Institute of Epidemiology & Health Care, said: "Our findings show an estimated 4.9 million adults in Britain – nearly one in 10 – have recently used a drug to support weight loss or were interested in using one.

"This usage far exceeds NHS England's initial goal of prescribing these drugs to 220,000 people over three years."

Professor Clare Llewellyn, co-author of the study, said: "Weight-loss drugs like GLP-1 agonists could play an important role in improving the health of the nation.

"Our findings suggest many people are accessing these medications outside the NHS.

Restrictions

"This raises concerns about equity, given the costs of these drugs, as well as the adequacy of supervision of treatment."

At present, Wegovy can only be prescribed on the NHS for a maximum of two years. There is no limit on Mounjaro.

The vast majority of people taking Wegovy and Mounjaro pay privately owing to restrictions on who can access them via the NHS. These concerns come as a separate study found those on fat-loss jabs put weight back on much faster than traditional dieters.

The University of Oxford discovered those using the drugs lost weight during treatment but, on average, regained it within 20 months of stopping the jabs.

Improvements to blood sugar levels, cholesterol and blood pressure are also lost with patients ending up back where they started.

In contrast, those who are supported to lose weight through healthier diets and exercise keep the weight off for far longer – just under four years on average. People on any type of weight-loss medication lost an average of 8.3kg during treatment, but regained 4.8kg within the first year and were back to their original weight within 1.7 years of stopping the drugs.

Those specifically on Wegovy and Mounjaro lost just under 15kg but regained 10kg within the first year of stopping treatment.

mounjaro KwikPen
7.5 mg
solution for injection in pre-filled pen
tirzepatide
subcutaneous use

Susan Jebb, professor of diet and population health at the University of Oxford, said: "What we've shown in this particular piece of analysis is that weight regain after medication is common and is rapid. "Obesity is a chronic relapsing condition."

By 2030, Britain is set to be Europe's fattest country, with 37% of adults being obese.

OPINION: PAGE 12

Corridors kitted out like wards

BY **STORM NEWTON**

HOSPITALS are installing emergency call bells and plug sockets in corridors as they are constantly used due to overcrowding, a probe found.

Senior staff said they "could not avoid using these spaces" and wanted to minimise risks to patients.

The health safety watchdog, which visited 13 hospitals and spoke to four more, found some had adapted temporary spaces, including offices and storerooms. But others had not as they "did not want to normalise corridor care".

Doctors and nurses said using corridors was the "best worse" option, rather than leaving people at home, in waiting rooms or ambulances.

Patients on trolleys told investigators they were grateful not to be stuck on a chair in the waiting room.

But the Health Services Safety Investigations Body report flagged issues, including difficulty monitoring patients. The HSSIB called for the NHS to address safety risks.

The Department of Health said it was determined to end corridor care.

1950s may hold clue to cancer

BY **STORM NEWTON**

TUMOUR samples stored for more than 70 years may help scientists to pinpoint why cases of bowel cancer are increasing in the under-50s.

Researchers think changes in environment, diet and lifestyle are contributing to rising cases and deaths. Their Project Boomer study may result in new strategies for prevention and treatment.

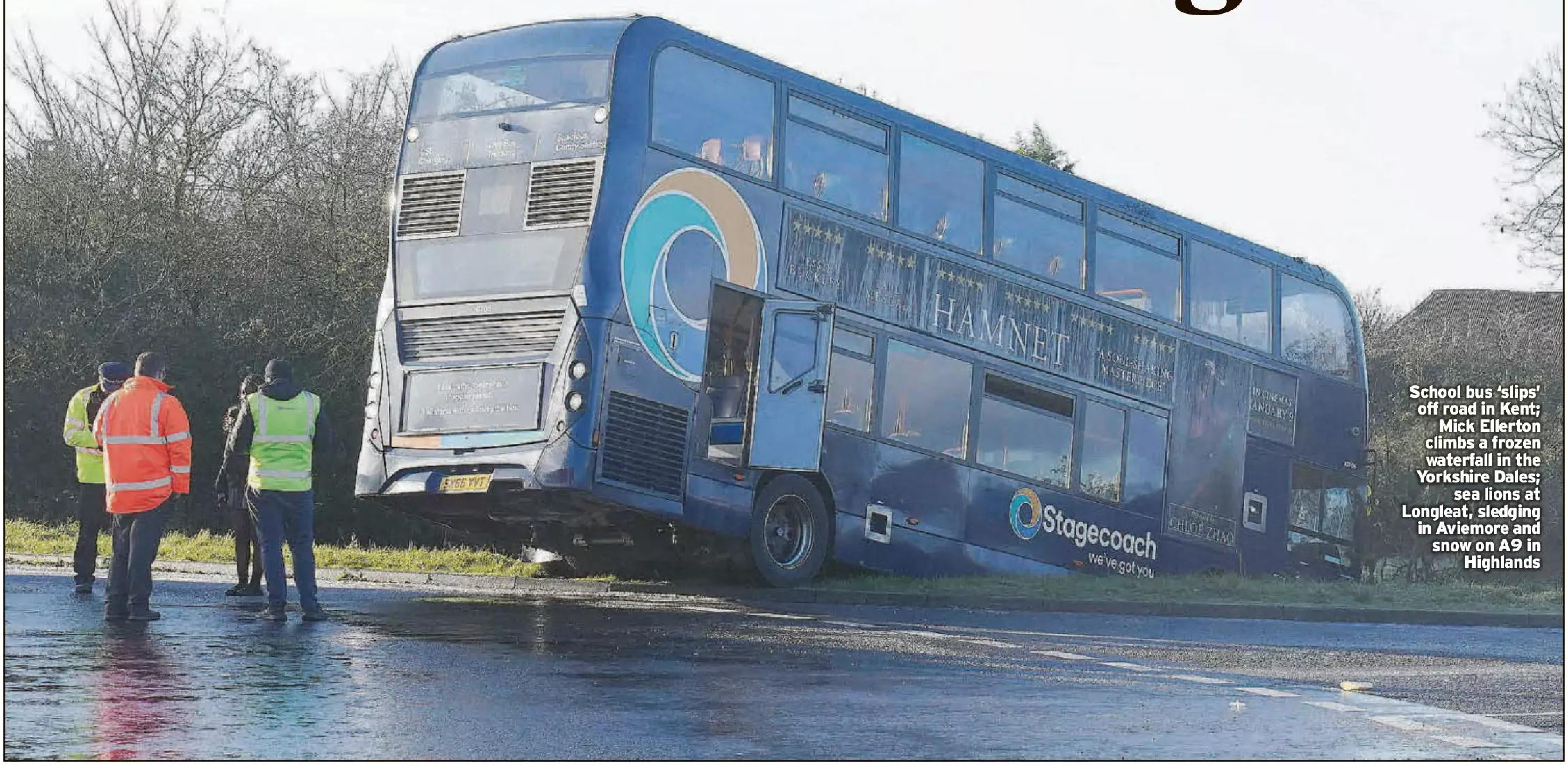
Scientists at London's Institute of Cancer Research and St Mark's Hospital believe the samples will be suitable for advanced molecular analysis. They plan to map how DNA differs from 1950s samples compared with current-day tumours to show how factors such as smoking and diet shape the disease.

Prof Trevor Graham, director of the institute's Centre for Evolution and Cancer, said: "We hope to identify exactly what is driving the increase."

Of 44,100 annual bowel cancer cases, 2,600 patients are aged 25 to 49. Cancer Research UK data shows a 52% rise in incidence in that group since the early 1990s.

Pictures: GARETH FULLER/PA, DANNY LAWSON/PA

It's turned out ice again...



School bus 'slips' off road in Kent; Mick Ellerton climbs a frozen waterfall in the Yorkshire Dales; sea lions at Longleat, sledging in Aviemore and snow on A9 in Highlands

BY **CHRIS RICHES**

HEAVY snow and powerful gusts up to 90mph are expected today as Storm Goretti blasts in, bringing chaos in its wake.

It comes after sleet and freezing temperatures brought treacherous black ice to many areas.

A school bus "slipped" off a road into a ditch soon after 8am yesterday at Chilmington Green near Ashford in Kent, rescuers said, though fortunately no one was hurt.

Another school coach and bus crashed in Wokingham, Berkshire.

Nine children, eight adult passengers and the coach driver all suffered minor injuries, with two, including one pupil, taken to hospital for further treatment.

South Central Ambulance Service said road conditions were reported to be "very icy" at the scene.

Snow

More travel chaos is expected on roads and railways and at airports today as blizzard conditions set in.

The Met Office has issued an amber snow warning from 8pm today until 9am tomorrow for parts of Wales, the Midlands and South Yorkshire. It said four to six inches of snow is "likely fairly widely" and up to 1ft possible on higher ground.

An amber warning for high winds has also been issued for the tip of Cornwall from 5pm to 11pm, highlighting a "danger to life" from large waves and debris.

Meanwhile there are several yellow warnings for rain, snow, ice and wind in place until the latest at 9pm tomorrow stretching from Plymouth on the south coast to the Orkney Islands off northern Scotland.

Drivers were urged to avoid the roads if conditions were too bad.

Alice Simpson, from RAC breakdown, said they should consider "if it's safe to get behind the wheel". The AA said those who do take to the roads should exercise extreme care as Storm Goretti approaches, adding they should "approach every journey with heightened caution".

As well as causing travel chaos, the blizzard conditions could also leave rural communities cut off, along with power cuts and disruptions to mobile phone signals.

Met Office meteorologist Alex Burkill said: "Storm Goretti is on its way bringing some strong winds and some significant snow to central and perhaps southern parts."

He said the storm will bring "wet, windy and wintry weather" to parts of the UK.

He added: "As that rain pushes its way and it hits against that cold air that we currently have across us... and so on the northern edge, we are likely to see some fairly significant snow as we go through later [today] and into Friday."

National Highways issued an amber snow alert for the Midlands, from 6pm today until 9am tomorrow, amid concerns for drivers on routes around Birmingham across to Leicester and Nottingham. The warning stated: "You may wish to delay your journey."

Amber cold weather health alerts have been issued by the UK Health Security Agency until Sunday.

Met Office chief forecaster Neil Armstrong said: "Storm Goretti will be a multi-hazard event, with the most significant impacts from snow in parts of Wales and the Midlands, though rain and strong winds also have the potential to bring disruption to many."

Forecasters said Storm Goretti's influence will wane tomorrow evening as it moves to the east of England, before a short-lived interlude of calmer weather for many areas on Saturday, with rain showers easing and sunny spells possible before the next big chill kicks in.

'I was told only gentlemen were allowed to fly...until they ran out of gentlemen'

True gentleman Albert, and with wife Enid, right

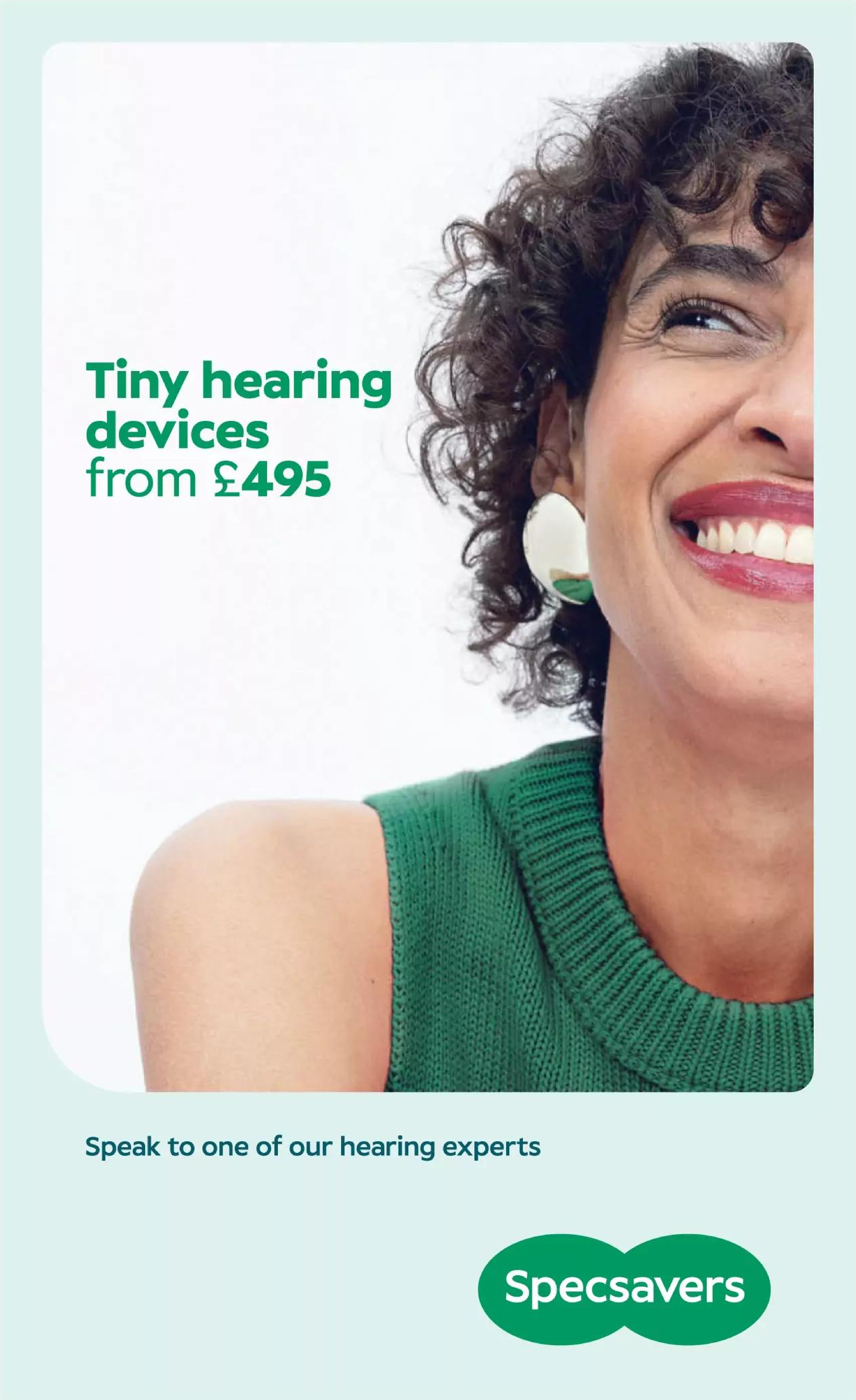
BY **GILES SHELDRICK**

BOMBER Command hero Albert Hodkinson, who beat the odds to survive 37 night-time raids over Germany, has died aged 103.

East End-born Albert joined the RAF as a mechanic at 17 after being told "only gentlemen were allowed to fly in their airplanes". But he later remarked: "Long before the war was over, they had run out of gentlemen so I became a navigator."

Albert served with No 10 Squadron - now based at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. The chances of seeing the war out were slim if you were part of Bomber Command. Only about one in six survived a complete tour of 30 operations.

After the war Albert wed Enid Crocombe, who served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, and in 1956 they sailed for America. The couple settled in Roxborough, Philadelphia, and had five children. Enid died before Albert, whose funeral will be held in the US city.



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Jim sets sail for the 80th anniversary of D-Day in 2024

Veteran of D-Day dies at age 101

BY **GILES SHELDRICK** Chief Reporter

A FORMER Royal Marine who provided covering fire for Allied troops landing in Normandy on D-Day has died aged 101.

Francis "Jim" Grant manned one of two anti-aircraft guns fitted to his Landing Craft Flak on Sword Beach on June 6, 1944.

His death was announced by the Stowmarket Royal Naval Association Branch in Suffolk, of which he was president.

In a Facebook post, members said: "It is with sadness that we have been informed that shipmate Jim Grant crossed the bar after a short illness at the age of 101.

"Jim served with the Royal Marines during the Second World War, taking part in both the D-Day landings in 1944 and then the vital Battle of the Scheldt, which opened the port of Antwerp. A holder of France's highest national order of merit, the Legion d'honneur, we were honoured to have Jim as a shipmate. Rest easy, shipmate, your watch is complete."

Jim joined the Marines aged 18 in 1943 and served until 1946. Last May he met the King and Queen at a Buckingham Palace tea party for the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

He also attended the annual D-Day ceremony of remembrance in France in June and the Remembrance Sunday service in Central London in November. His birthday was on December 20.

The previous year, when he turned 100, a community group he belonged to threw a surprise party.

With Queen Camilla at Buckingham Palace last June and as a young Royal Marine

Martin Clunes as Edwards

Clunes plays shamed BBC newsreader

BY **LAUREN DE FABBRO**

MARTIN Clunes will portray disgraced BBC newsreader Huw Edwards in a new drama.

The two-part series on 5, which has a working title of Power: The Downfall of Huw Edwards, looks at the scandal after a newspaper alleged that a "top BBC star" had paid a teenager for sexual pictures in 2023.

Edwards, 64, fronted the BBC's News at Ten for decades.

In 2024, he resigned and pleaded guilty to possessing indecent images of children.

Ben Frow, chief content officer at 5, said: "This is an important and shocking story of how a man in a position of power and trust betrayed that status."

Peter, 62, died after 999 call

Power cut stalls aid for dying man

BY **JEREMY ARMSTRONG**

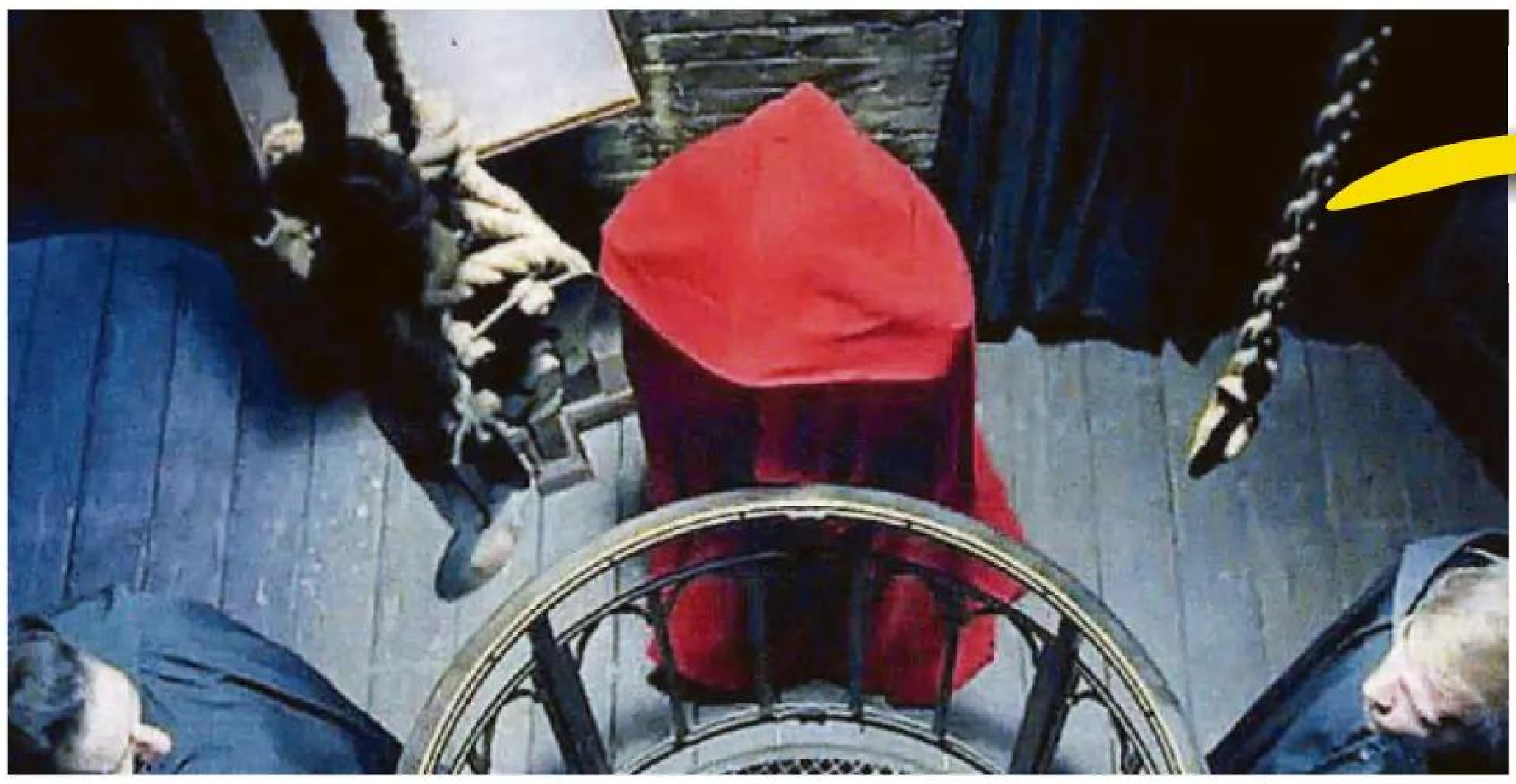
A GRANDAD died after an ambulance got stuck at its station when a power cut jammed the gates – and a second one had to refuel.

By the time it reached Peter Coates, 62, whose oxygen machine had stopped working at his home in Dormanstown, North Yorks, he was dead.

He made the 999 call 47 minutes earlier in March 2019, an inquest heard. The first ambulance was allocated after three minutes and due to reach him in two.

Daughter Kellie said Peter, who had COPD, could survive for up to 20 minutes without his oxygen. But Dr Simon Quantrill told Teesside Crown Court he could not say if the delays contributed to his death.

The inquest continues.



'Wonderful, wasn't I? Hollywood beckons, I can feel it'

'Drunk on power'

Fiona is revealed as the Secret Traitor

Fiona revealed as the secret Traitor and, left, reaction from Stephen

BY **MARK JEFFERIES**

THE Secret Traitor was finally revealed last night, with Welsh government officer Fiona Hughes promising to be a class act.

It took just two minutes for the cackling 62-year-old to walk into the turret in her red cloak and join Rachel and Stephen, who looked stunned to learn she was their fellow Traitor.

Fiona said: "I was wonderful, wasn't I? Hollywood is beckoning, I can feel it."

She had earlier been shown getting tapped on the shoulder by host Claudia Winkleman to be made a Traitor and said after: "This is just wonderful. I'm drunk on power."

Irish Rachel, 42, said: "Oh my goodness!"

Host Claudia Winkleman explained last week how a Secret Traitor had been added to the format of the latest series but their identity would be kept a secret from the other Traitors and even viewers of the hit BBC show. In a piece to camera, Stephen, 32, reflected: "I can't believe Fiona's a Secret Traitor. She is playing a very, very good game."

Rachel added: "Fiona coming in makes me nervous, because I think she is going to ruffle some feathers."

Fiona told the pair: "I'm so thrilled to actually meet my fellow traitors. And if the devil could have cast his net, he wouldn't have had a better three."

She noted that all three of them are Celts and, using a Welsh word to mean a cuddle, joked of her role: "A cwtch and a kill!"

The trio now have to try to hide their true identity from the other contestants in a bid to win the cash prize at the end of the series.

But cracks are already starting to show as it is clear they do not completely trust each other.

There was an earlier-than-usual Round Table discussion after breakfast, where Faithful Ross Garshong paid the price for seeming suspicious.

Ross was voted out after Round Table discussion

He was voted out by six votes to Reece's five and later said: "It's bittersweet. I thought to myself, 'would you rather stay in longer and be in the background, or burn bright and go out in a blaze of glory?' and I genuinely feel like I did. I'm really happy with myself; I don't think I could have done any better."

The sales exec and personal trainer admitted the game makes you question everything – as it was revealed that fellow Faithful Ellie is actually his girlfriend.

Ross said: "Hiding the relationship with Ellie was the easiest thing ever. Any time we had an interaction, I was happy to see her because I was under pressure the whole time, so Ellie was my safe space.

"But I thought she was a Traitor, because every time we had a moment together, she would not speak to me. I'm very proud of her though and I'm glad she's still there."

Asked if he wanted her to win, he added: "Of course! She has all my support and the potential to go all the way."

Four people who lost out in the mission face being murdered – Max, James, Reece and Stephen. But as a traitor Stephen can't be killed off.

- *The Traitors continues tonight on BBC1 and BBC iPlayer.*

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Peers must respect MPs' assisted dying decision

THE foot-dragging by the House of Lords must not be allowed to derail the long-awaited law to give terminally ill people the right to end their lives.

The unelected chamber risks torching its credibility if opponents of assisted dying engage in parliamentary tricks to try and prevent the historic law change.

The Bill has been approved by MPs after intense debate in the House of Commons. But more than 1,000 amendments have been tabled in the Lords.

Dame Esther Rantzen, Britain's highest profile campaigner on this issue, has warned that "scrutiny must not tip into sabotage". Former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey has cautioned, rightly, that peers endanger their legitimacy if they block the legislation.

The clock is ticking. The Bill will fail to become law unless it completes all parliamentary stages before the King's Speech, expected in early May.

People have every right to express strong, even vehement, opposition to legislation in a democracy. But men and women of goodwill will not indulge in the dark arts of Westminster to kill the Bill.

In both the Commons and the country there is a clear majority in support of assisted dying. Members of the House of Lords should respect the decisions of MPs and not deny vulnerable people the freedom to end their lives.

Vital that weight loss drugs are regulated

WEIGHT loss drugs have given people who had despaired at shedding pounds a new opportunity to escape obesity.

The arrival of the jabs and pills has unlocked hope and the results can be dramatic.

It is no surprise that so many people who have struggled with diets have jumped at these scientific breakthroughs.

We must remember these are early days. It is vital these powerful drugs are properly regulated and people's health is not put at risk.

It is also important that we do not turn to medication when a sensible diet and regular exercise would work wonders.

Eating well and getting active is the truly life-changing option.

Star Jesy's courage is an inspiration to us all

EVERY parent will feel respect, sympathy and admiration for Little Mix singer Jesy Nelson, who has spoken out to raise awareness of the genetic condition which affects her twins.

Ocean Jade and Story Monroe Nelson-Foster have been diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy. She wants screening for the condition to be added to the heel prick test.

We can only imagine her heartbreak when she was told her children will probably never walk, but her determination to ensure other people receive vital help is inspirational.

Her twins are blessed to have a mum of such love and courage and we wish them all the very best while hoping for the boldest of medical breakthroughs.

Police chief who banned Jewish fans has to go

MIKE O'HARA
CRAIG GUILDFOR
MICK WILKINSON

Chief Constable Craig Guildford, centre, addresses the Home Affairs committee

Esther Krakue

Daily Express Columnist

AFTER it emerged back in November that Maccabi Tel Aviv fans would not be allowed to attend Aston Villa's Europa League fixture at Villa Park, the match went ahead, but the away end stayed empty. It was an unprecedented ban. West Midlands Police said the decision was based on intelligence pointing to increased safety risks and disorder.

It sounded dubious then. Now, after weeks of scrutiny and a bruising Home Affairs select committee hearing, it's clear this was not just a poor judgment call, but a scandal that should end careers.

West Midlands Police Chief Constable Craig Guildford, whose halting appearance before MPs was an utter humiliation, should resign. And if he doesn't, he should be removed. The force's decision was neither honest nor neutral, and the attempt to justify it after the fact has been an embarrassment to British policing.

The original justification that Maccabi Tel Aviv supporters posed an exceptional risk of violence has since collapsed. The decision was not based on credible intelligence, but on fears about how elements of the local community might react to their presence. In other words, there were fears local extremists would target Jewish supporters – and instead of confronting the threat, the solution police came upon was to ban the Jews.

NONE of this was communicated honestly – and were it not for the efforts of the press it would probably have stayed hidden. Instead, a narrative was constructed portraying Maccabi fans as dangerous, militarised and provocative.

Evidence that did not withstand scrutiny was scraped together. At times, this amounted to little more than hearsay, Google searches and references to an Amsterdam match, where Jewish fans were "hunted" by locals. Even the Dutch authorities disputed the UK police's version of events.

The Home Affairs committee hearings only deepened the farce. Senior officers responded to straightforward questions with all kinds of jargon and irrelevant detail.

Meetings the force said shaped their decision had no proper minutes. When MPs asked why the most serious factor – the threat from armed local groups – had not been disclosed, the answer, I kid you not, was that no one had asked!

What makes this particularly disturbing is the broader context. Birmingham is not a politically neutral environment. Councillors involved in the Safety Advisory Group had publicly opposed Israel's participation in sport. A pro-Gaza independent MP supported the ban. Police insist there was no political pressure, yet they met these figures, echoed their concerns and adopted their preferred outcome. Jewish community leaders say they were not meaningfully consulted, despite police claims to the contrary.

Even more alarming is the revelation police "community engagement" included consulting mosques that had hosted preachers promoting antisemitic views. This was presented as outreach. In reality, it speaks to a deeper problem.

When policing decisions are shaped by those willing to excuse or propagate hatred, neutrality has already been lost.

There is, however, one detail that should stop us cold. Many Israeli supporters chose not to travel to Birmingham even before the ban, because they feared for their safety. That's where we are as a country. Jews deciding Britain's second city was not safe enough to attend a football match. And the saddest part is this isn't hysteria. It's a rational response to a country where institutions manage risk by appeasement rather than enforcement.

THE MOST disturbing aspect of this scandal is not the ban itself, nor the incompetence. It is the ease with which ideological capture has taken hold of a core public institution. We have seen this before. Grooming gangs were allowed to operate for decades because officials feared accusations more than failure. This is the same. Problems are reframed to avoid confrontation, and certain groups are sacrificed.

Jewish organisations have been unequivocal that trust has been damaged. They are not wrong. Policing depends on credibility. Once the public believes decisions are driven by lobbying, intimidation or ideological fashion, that evaporates.

West Midlands Police failed to act impartially, failed to communicate honestly and failed to protect a minority community.

Craig Guildford's position is untenable. And if he remains in post, the message will be clear: in Britain, it is easier to exclude Jews than to confront those who threaten them.

> 'Problems are now reframed to avoid confrontation'

VIRGINIA BLACKBURN

"Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it."
Confucius

MY CHAMPAGNE GLASS IS ALWAYS HALF FULL

Email me at virginia.blackburn@reachplc.com

Veto spoilt brats from Montecito

REPORTS continue to surface that Harry and Meghan are plotting to return to the UK, establish a rival court and continue to try to make themselves the centre of attention like the spoilt brats they are.

If true, that shows an even greater inability to read the room than we suspected. It's not a matter of patching things up with the Royal Family: the country doesn't want them here. They threw our good wishes back in our face – remember that £32million wedding we gave them?

Stay in Montecito, people, and continue your utterly vacuous and pointless lifestyle. You made your bed, etc, etc.

A POSTSCRIPT to last week's mention of the death of Brigitte Bardot. You had to snigger to see a host of little starlets trying to associate themselves with her (some hope) by posting fulsome tributes before realising to their horror that her views on immigration and gay rights were, shall we say, a little forthright.

They practically knocked themselves out in a rush to backtrack. Stick with the day job, kids, and maybe try not to show yourself up for the ignoramuses you are…

Keir is making plans for Nigel

IT'S a real mark of desperation when you start warning your supporters about the bogeyman. Keir Starmer has done just that, telling Labour that if it gets shot of him, Nigel Farage will get in. If that's the only reason for keeping him that he can come up with, the PM is doomed indeed.

Rayner's last supper will choke businesses

I KNOW it was a week ago, but bear with me. Let us return to New Year's Eve and an illustration of what Labour is doing to this country. My husband and I are not Hogmanay fans and so booked an early supper at a local restaurant, with plans to be asleep well before the witching hour.

The restaurant is a pleasant place in the centre of an agreeable London suburb, part of a country-wide chain. We got there at 8pm for a fixed four-course menu. It took 10 minutes before a drinks order was placed.

The first course arrived at 9pm and at 10pm we were still just starting the main. We left before pudding as serving it clearly was on no one's to-do list; as we did so fellow diners confided that they, too, were unhappy.

It was not the restaurant's finest hour.

And you know what? It was not their fault. The problem was that they had about four people serving a crowded room and it is a story we have seen repeated everywhere. The cost of employing people has rocketed and so no one can afford to do so any more.

If Angela Rayner's insane workers' rights bill goes through, fairly soon there won't be any workers as no one will risk taking them on.

Business rates are rocketing. Pubs are going out of business in their hundreds. The high streets are being destroyed and talk to people in the hospitality industry about Labour and they will say there has never been anything like it.

And all this in order to hang on to an ideology that has been shown, over and over again, never to have been able to work.

Frankly, Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves deserve to end up in the dock.

A government cannot create wealth, only the conditions for doing so.

It is consumers and private businesses that put money into the system, not public sector workers and benefits claimants, and yet this shower of a government has its priorities totally the wrong way around. Everything must come to an end, including this ghastly Labour administration. But they are doing the type of damage it will take generations to repair.

THERE'S a lot of health advice doing the rounds at the moment, some of it easier to follow than others. Personally I find anything that contains the phrase, "It's easy! All you have to do is give up coffee and alcohol!", is not going to do it for me. Bottoms up.

Successful sleuth has made a killing

ONE of the great guilty pleasures of the festive season was channel hopping through the archives of 1970s and 80s television, and my word, some things have lasted considerably better than others.

The Good Life was and remains a joy: it has not dated, is still extremely funny, and Margo and Jerry are, as ever, the real stars of the show. But Man About The House? Yeesh, yeesh and thrice yeesh. Really, do not go there.

Meanwhile, across the pond, should you ever see Jessica Fletcher (played by Angela Lansbury, left) in the vicinity, then head for the hills.

Last month it was revealed that the star of Murder She Wrote solved 268 crimes, more than any other fictional detective, while a whopping 274 murders were committed in the quiet New England town of Cabot Cove, despite a population numbering just 3,500. It makes downtown Kinshasa look like a children's playground.

Happy viewing!

IN THE wake of the US invasion of Venezuela, I can do no more than quote a verse from Send The Marines by the late, great Tom Lehrer:

"For might makes right
And till they've seen the light
They've got to be protected
All their rights respected
Till somebody we like can be elected"

That was written 60 years ago.

Prescient, huh?

RADIATING A GLOW IS BETTER THAN GRIM REAPER'S ICY STARE

AS if we didn't have enough to worry about, the latest angst-fest doing the rounds is: "Do you have central heating face?" I'm not entirely sure what it is but of all the First World problems on our plate, this one takes the biscuit. Anyway, far better that than dying of consumption because of the freezing cold face…

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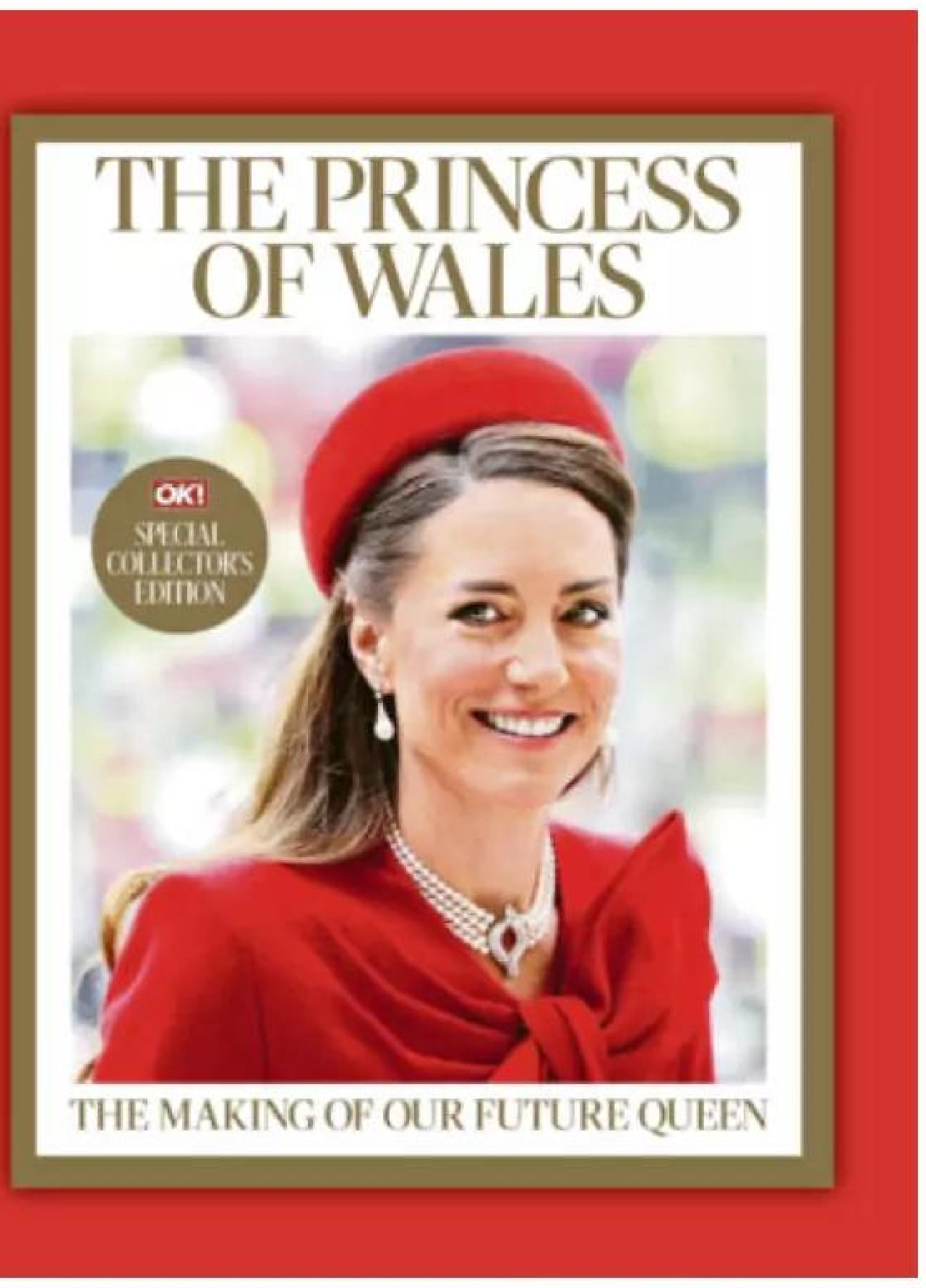
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ON THE MONEY

by Katie Elliott

Any questions? Please email me at katie.elliott@reachplc.com

Make plans before your time comes

I KNOW this might seem a bit morbid, so I apologise in advance. But it turns out there's a third certainty in life after death and taxes – the cost of dealing with the former. The price of a traditional attended funeral jumped 5.3% to average £4,510 last year, says SunLife's latest Cost of Dying Report. This marks the largest annual increase in a decade.

That alone could be enough to startle you, but the sting really is how wildly prices vary depending on where you live – it's a postcode lottery. Brace yourself if you're in London. Pure Cremation's research analysing data by country and region showed a traditional funeral in the capital averages £5,710. This works out almost £1,500 more than in Wales, the cheapest place to die at £4,136.

The gap becomes more stark when it comes to burials. The average burial funeral in London costs £9,050, compared with £5,092 in the North East. That's nearly £4,000 more for the same send-off, driven by sky-high burial plot prices.

Cremations are cheaper, but not by much. The average cremation funeral comes in at £4,232. Funeral director fees can account for up to 60% of the total bill, and even those fees vary dramatically. The most expensive funeral director in Great Britain is located in Devon and charges £4,485. The cheapest, also located in Devon, charges £812. Same county, same job, but a staggering £3,600 price difference.

What makes this process more difficult is that, despite rules requiring clear price lists, families still struggle to work out upfront costs. Pure Cremation's Ian Atkinson said: "Funeral directors will put a price range next to some items, some will put 'price on request', and there will often be extras, such as 'additional miles' charges. It leaves grieving families vulnerable to hidden costs at the worst time."

What's terribly sad is the methods people now use to pay these prices. SunLife's survey showed bereaved families turning to crowdfunding (12%) and loan sharks (8%). The tip this week is to talk about it early. It's not a cheery subject, but it could save your loved ones thousands.

Let them know your wishes, compare prices and consider alternatives, such as a cremation. These strip out many traditional costs and avoid regional price hikes. With prices averaging £1,628, direct cremations are now chosen for 21% of funerals, with the majority involving the deceased having planned the arrangements.

Other options are available, such as pre-paid funeral plans. If you receive benefits, the government will cover some costs via a Funeral Expenses Payment (or Funeral Support Payment in Scotland). Visit citizensadvice.org.uk.

DEAL OF THE WEEK

THE Great British Rail Sale is a hard deal to beat this week. Until January 12, millions of discounted tickets are available across nearly all operators on the National Rail website. Some tickets have been slashed by as much as 76%, such as routes from Exeter to London, priced at just £10, down from £41.70. The reduced fares are valid for travel between Tuesday, January 13 and March 25.

MILLIONS of pounds worth of support is being offered up by local councils, and you've only got a few months left to claim if you haven't already. The support is provided through the Government's Household Support Fund and it runs until March.

The scheme is for low-income and vulnerable households struggling with everyday bills.

Councils in England receive a share of the fund and decide how to use it locally – some offer food or supermarket vouchers, while others give direct support with energy and water bills.

For example, Kent County Council is offering an energy or supermarket voucher worth £90 from 12pm on January 8.

Nottingham City Council is offering 1,000 energy vouchers worth £98 each until Sunday, while Portsmouth City Council is offering up to £200 towards energy or water bills, and supermarket vouchers worth £30 for children under the age of 11.

Some councils automatically distribute the money to eligible households, whereas in other areas, people have to claim it. The problem is that many people either don't know this support exists or mistakenly believe they won't qualify. Check your local council's website or get in touch to see what's on offer.

The eligibility criteria can differ depending on where you live, and you don't always need to be on benefits to qualify. The scheme typically operates on a first-come, first-served basis, so apply as soon as possible.

Pictures: KEN MCKAY/ITV/SHUTTERSTOCK

Exercise 'as good as pills or therapy'

BY **STEPHEN BEECH**

EXERCISE can combat depression as effectively as drugs and therapy, research suggests.

A review looked at 73 trials, between them studying around 4,500 adults with depression.

It found that exercise had a moderate benefit on reducing depressive symptoms, when compared to no treatment or a control intervention.

Psychological therapy had a similar effect, based on what the researchers called "moderate-certainty" evidence from 10 trials.

Antidepressant medication seemed to have a similar effect, though evidence was thought to be limited and of low certainty.

And few studies followed participants in the long term.

Review lead author Professor Andrew Clegg, of the University of Lancashire, said: "Exercise works well for some people, but not for everyone. Finding approaches individuals are willing and able to maintain is important."

Saving our planet is a dog's dinner

BY **NICK FORBES**

DOGS fed on premium, meat-rich pet food can have a bigger carbon footprint diet-wise than their owners, a UK study has found.

Researchers calculated the carbon generated by the making of 1,000 dog foods, including wet, dry, raw and plant-based.

They found those with the highest impact generated 65 times more emissions than the lowest. Worst offenders tended to be wet, raw and meat-rich products, as well as "grain-free" dry foods.

The researchers from Edinburgh and Exeter Universities said large amounts of prime meat – that can be eaten by humans – pushed up emissions, and called for greater use of nutritious, low-demand cuts.

Lead investigator and vet John Harvey said: "I regularly see owners torn between ideals of dogs as meat-eating 'wolves' and their wish to reduce environmental harm." He called for clearer labelling. The study is in the Journal of Cleaner Production.

Jesy speaks out on This Morning with Cat Deeley yesterday; inset left, with Zion and their twin girls

'I feel I have got a duty of care to raise awareness'

Former Little Mix star Jesy on her twins' health battle

BY **GILES SHELDRICK**
Chief Reporter

FORMER Little Mix singer Jesy Nelson has been "overwhelmed" by messages of support after revealing her twin girls had been diagnosed with a rare genetic condition.

The 34-year-old welcomed daughters Ocean Jade and Story Monroe Nelson-Foster prematurely in May with fiance Zion Foster.

But on Sunday she told how the seven-month-olds are suffering with Spinal Muscular Atrophy and are unlikely ever to be able to walk.

Now she is campaigning to get the condition added to the newborn blood spot screening test, also known as the heel prick test.

Speaking to Ben Shephard and Cat Deeley in an emotional appearance on ITV's This Morning, she said: "I almost feel like I've got a duty of care to raise awareness about it. It feels selfish to keep this to myself and not potentially save a child's life. Something that can be done and that is why I'm going to shout to the rooftops about this."

Early diagnosis and treatment is crucial, as babies with the most severe forms of SMA can suffer rapid and irreversible muscle weakness which could lead to serious disability or life-threatening complications.

Prevented

Speaking about the response since she revealed the news at the weekend, Jesy said: "I'm overwhelmed because I wanted it to get as much reach as possible, to raise awareness about it, and I actually can't believe how amazing the response has been. I could have prevented this from happening if I'd caught it early enough."

The optional NHS heel-prick blood test is normally carried out at five days old and looks for conditions including sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis, and severe combined immunodeficiency.

Jesy's twins' diagnosis came after months of punishing rounds of tests and appointments.

She said they had not been showing as much movement in their legs as they should be and were struggling to feed properly.

In an emotional video message to fans she said: "Essentially, what it [SMA] does is, over time, it kills the muscles, and if it's not treated in time, your baby's life expectancy will not make it past the age of two.

"It does affect every muscle in the body, down to legs, arms, breathing, swallowing."

Since the diagnosis, Jesy said her life has "completely changed", and that her house looks like a hospital. She said: "I just want to be their mum, I don't want to be a nurse. We've been told they will probably never walk. They'll probably never regain their neck strength. They are going to be in wheelchairs.

"All I can do is just try my best to be there for them, give them positive energy, keep doing physio."

Speaking about her campaign, Jesy said: "I'm going to fight as much as I can to make this part of the newborn screening.

Campaign

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the outpouring of support and beautiful messages for me and so many other families dealing with this horrible diagnosis."

Jesy found stardom on The X Factor as part of the first group – and only girl group – ever to win the original UK series.

OPINION: PAGE 12

Suicide kit seller jailed for 14 years

Two took their lives after buying his £100 packages

BY **PHIL CARDY**

A SICK predator who sold suicide substances online which led to two people taking their own lives was yesterday jailed for 14 years.

Miles Cross, 33, set up a business preying on the vulnerable and mentally ill on an internet suicide forum, posting a QR code which allowed people to order a chemical directly from him and pay via his bank account.

Using a pseudonym, he sold four kits at £100 each and sent them the chemical through the post. Two people took their own lives as a result.

When police searched Cross's home in Wrexham, North Wales, in January 2025, they found the chemical and other paraphernalia. Analysis of his seized devices linked him to the forum, social media profiles and the bank account.

Victims

Sentencing Cross at Mold crown court, Judge Rhys Rowlands said the "rare and extremely serious case" was aggravated as Cross did not know the mental health of the recipients. He told him his actions had had a "profound effect on the victims who survived and the families of those who died".

In police interviews Cross denied selling the kits. Asked by detectives if anyone was at risk from things he had sold, or if anyone might need assistance, he sat arms folded and arrogantly replied: "No."

But in November last year he pleaded guilty to four offences of encouraging or assisting suicide.

One of his victims was Shubhreet Singh, 26, of Leeds, West Yorks. The others cannot be revealed due to a court order.

The parents of one 20-year-old with mental health issues who bought the substances seized them from their son. But tragically the man's father, who also had mental health problems, died after taking the chemicals himself.

One of those who bought a kit from Cross said: "The fact this was so easy makes me think, had I not come to my senses, I wouldn't be where I am today. Because this person made it so easily available, makes me think they preyed on vulnerable people like me." Det Supt Chris Bell, of North Wales Police, said: "Cross took advantage and exploited his victims in their most desperate moments, profiting off their vulnerability and mental illnesses."

Following the sentencing, Andy Burrows, Chief Executive of Molly Rose Foundation,which campaigns to prevent suicide in young people, said: "Ofcom should act immediately to apply fines and criminal sanctions against the owners of this forum and to deter copycat sites from springing up in its place."

Cross leaving court in handcuffs yesterday and, below, his arrest

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XXL PACK
FAIRY
NON BIO
51

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Chivers at training in 1973

England and Spurs striker Chivers 'was a true great'

BY **JIM VAN WIJK**

SPURS and England football ace Martin Chivers has died at 80.

The striker was signed by Bill Nicholson from Southampton in 1968 for a record £125,000 and went on to win the League Cup twice as well as the UEFA Cup.

After 367 games and 174 goals for the North London side, Chivers left for Swiss club Servette in 1976. He also netted 13 goals in a total of 24 appearances for England.

In retirement, Chivers ran a Hertfordshire hotel and restaurant, did media work with BBC Radio and was part of Spurs' matchday legends hospitality team.

The club said yesterday: "It is with immense sadness that we announce the passing of our legendary former striker Martin Chivers.

Star Martin Chivers in 2019

"We extend our deepest sympathies to Martin's family, friends and former team-mates.

"Our players will wear black armbands during this evening's fixture against AFC Bournemouth. Rest in peace, Martin. One of the all-time greats."

After starting his career at Southampton, helping the Saints win promotion to the top flight in 1966 under Ted Bates, a move to White Hart Lane followed.

Chivers recovered from a serious knee injury to go on to become a key member of the Spurs team that reached four finals in as many years. He scored both goals in the 1971 League Cup win over Aston Villa at Wembley and also helped Spurs finish third in the old First Division.

SPORT: PAGE 53

Kevin Keegan in 2017; top, a star at Liverpool in the 1970s; right, as manager of Newcastle United

Football legend Kevin Keegan, 74, has cancer

BY **ALLISTER HAGGER**

LEGENDARY former England forward and manager Kevin Keegan has been diagnosed with cancer, his family announced yesterday.

The 74-year-old was recently admitted to hospital after suffering abdominal symptoms and tests have shown he has the disease, for which he is undergoing treatment.

Keegan had an illustrious playing career, starring as a forward for Liverpool, Hamburg, Southampton and Newcastle United.

Support

He moved into management after ending his playing days and had stints in charge of Newcastle, Fulham, England and Manchester City.

A statement from Keegan's family said: "Kevin Keegan was recently admitted to hospital for further evaluation of ongoing abdominal symptoms.

"These investigations have revealed a diagnosis of cancer, for which Kevin will undergo treatment.

"Kevin is grateful to the medical team for their intervention and ongoing care.

"During this difficult time, the family are requesting privacy and will be making no further comment."

Keegan as England captain in 1976

Messages of support flooded in for the football legend yesterday.

A Newcastle United spokesman said: "King Kev. We're with you every step of the way. Hoping for a full and speedy recovery."

Former Newcastle and England striker Alan Shearer shared the announcement on X with a prayer sign.

An England spokesman said on social media: "Sending our best wishes. We're all with you, Kevin." The former centre forward and winger is regarded by many as one of the greatest players of all time.

During his career at Liverpool, he won three First Division Championships, two UEFA Cups, one FA Cup, and a European Cup. He later won the Ballon d'Or twice, making him the only English player to achieve this honour.

Liverpool FC said: "The thoughts and support of everyone at Liverpool FC and Forever Reds are with Kevin Keegan after he was diagnosed with cancer."

Keegan's former Newcastle team-mate John Anderson said: "It's not the news you were expecting to hear and I'm sure every Newcastle United fan sends him all their love and best wishes.

"Not only did he resurrect this club, he did it twice. Once as a player in the 80s and then when he came back as a manager.

"I'm sure everyone in the North East and every football fan sends him all their love and best wishes."

Trophies

Keegan started his career at Scunthorpe United before he was signed by giants Liverpool in 1971, going on to win a host of trophies.

He was twice named European Footballer of the Year while at German club Hamburg, and later returned to England to play for Southampton and Newcastle before retiring as a player in 1984.

He won 63 England caps, scoring 21 goals and playing at the 1982 World Cup. He was also captain of the national team. Keegan is married to Jean, whom he met at 19, and the couple have two daughters.

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Hugh Laurie, Tom, Elizabeth Debicki, Olivia Colman and Tom Hollander in first

Actor Tom Hiddleston on being the Night Manager

By **Marc Baker** and **Sue Lee**

HE GETS TO wear sharp suits as spy Jonathan Pine but Tom Hiddleston says there's something he loves more about his character in The Night Manager than just embodying elegant espionage.

He explains: "On the surface he is immaculate, charming, collected, capable and calm, like all great hoteliers, a great actor – so think about it the next time you are staying in a hotel!

"But he had also been a British soldier in the Army. There is this tension between the still water of this immaculate, pristine face and inside a heart that is on fire with moral courage and solitude and pain and trauma. Who does not want to play that guy?"

He says the character created by author John le Carre is stencilled into his brain, adding: "Le Carre was fascinated by the masks we wear.

"Spies have to lie to get to the truth and it is easy to get lost in the maze. One slip-up and you are a dead man."

Tom, 44, is speaking shortly after season two of the hit series came out on New Year's Day, and says even more work went into the comeback – premiering a decade after season one.

He says: "We set a high standard for ourselves. We knew it had to be bigger, bolder, deeper and we had to risk more.

"We knew it would cost more in terms of spirit. It takes time to develop six hours of television."

In season one, Cairo hotel manager Pine is recruited by Foreign Office operative Angela Burr (Olivia Colman) to get close to arms dealer Richard Roper, played by Hugh Laurie.

A lot has changed for Pine by season two – but Tom says much has changed in his life, too, and indeed in everyone's.

Speaking at a 92NY cultural event in New York, he says: "There have been a complicated 10 years in the world.

"Who has changed more, Jonathan Pine or Tom Hiddleston? Probably Tom Hiddleston, I would think.

"We have all been through those years, so we leant into it. So much has happened – the world is more fragmented and uncertain. There have been so many political, cultural and environmental changes and a pandemic.

"But as Jonathan Pine, we thought if you worked at the centre of the intelligence community, then those 10 years would also have been complex."

Major changes in Tom's life include falling in love and having two children. He met Zawe Ashton

As Marvel films' mischief-maker Loki. Below, With Hugh Laurie as Roper in 2016's Night Manager

'The tension... who wouldn't want to play this guy?'

Tom as spy Pine. Right, with Camila Morrone as Roxana, Diego Calva as Teddy

when they starred together in a 2019 West End revival of the play Betrayal and they became engaged in 2022, having their first child later that year.

A second child arrived last month and Tom says being a dad is "the most important thing I will ever do".

Despite the pressure of parental duties, London-born, Cambridge-educated Tom looks set for a busy 2026.

As well as The Night Manager, he will be reprising the role of trickster Loki in Avengers: Doomsday, which will also star Sir Ian McKellen and Sir Patrick Stewart. He says of the film, due out in December: "It was very exciting to be back. I revere Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart, so it was amazing to be in that ensemble."

And he is in demand as a stage actor on top of his TV and cinema work – a part in Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing on Broadway is rumoured.

Tom, winner of a Golden Globe for The Night Manager and Olivier Tony-nominated for stage roles, adds of TV, cinema and stage work: "I like all three. The camera captures the truth, it is so sharp. You can't lie in front of it or a live audience.

"I love the precision of acting for a camera, but I love playing a whole story night after night."

With partner Zawe Ashton

TOM, WHO dated Taylor Swift in 2016, first appeared on screens in 2001 in an ITV adaptation of Charles Dickens' Nicholas Nickleby.

He cites Jack Nicholson as a key influence on his career, explaining: "I don't think I would have played Loki without the film Batman. The way Jack Nicholson played The Joker, it made such an impact on my imagination. I understood he was the villain, but he was having such a good time. He was so charismatic.

"When I played Loki, I consciously carried Jack Nicholson in mind."

And he might even try reality TV. "I would do Strictly or The Traitors," he confides. "We are big fans of Strictly in our house. It's very wholesome and emotional but I am a massive fan of both shows.

"Traitors is great. The version of it with celebrities... the entire country watched the finale, like 11 million people."

He is also looking forward to a third series of The Night Manager, already slated despite John le Carre's death in 2020.

Tom says: "We went to the memorial service and his sons said, 'Dad loved the show and he would want us to do more'. It was him making a legacy to leave to all of us."

● *Episode three of The Night Manager can be seen on Sunday, January 11, on BBC One*

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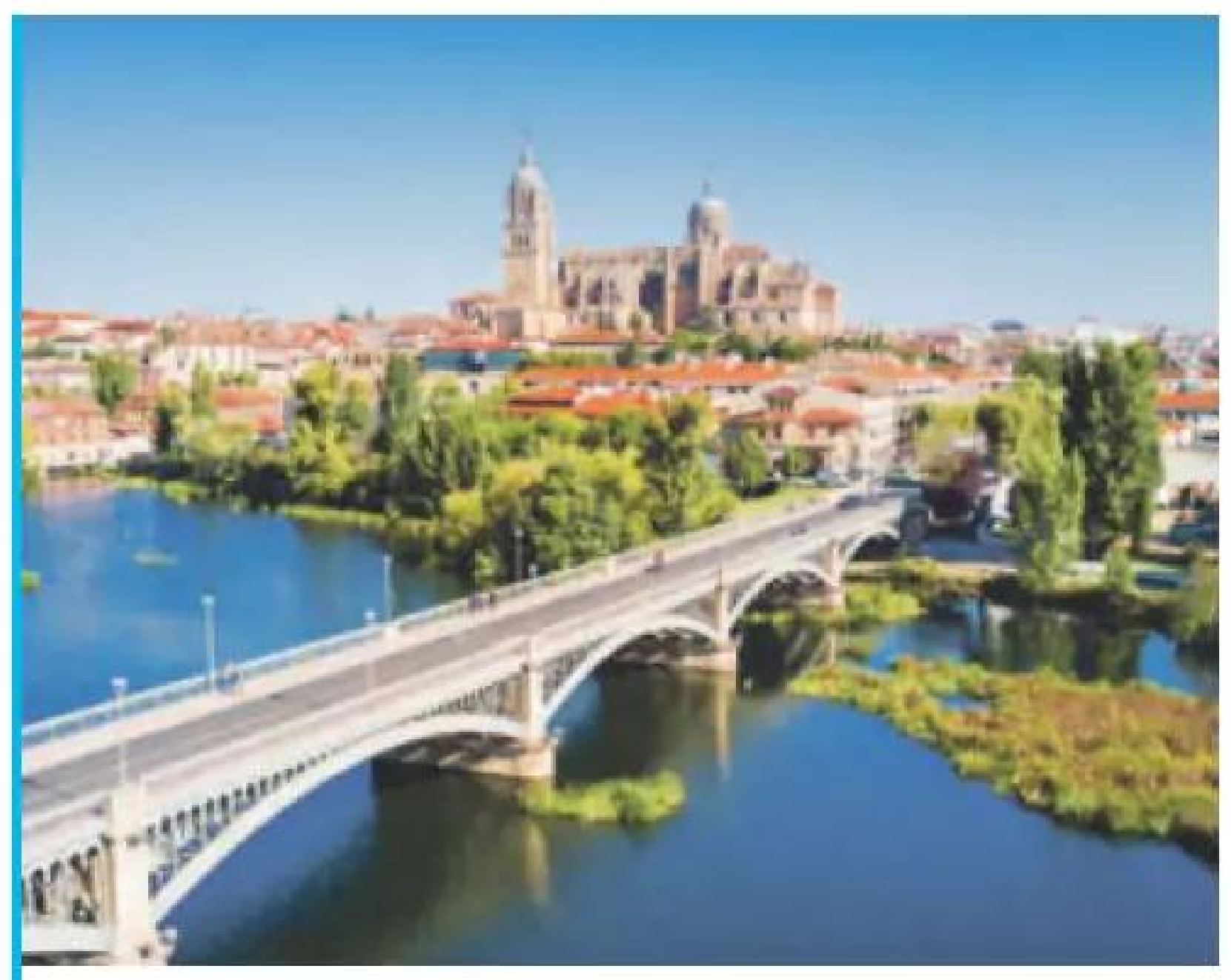

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Merci
Brigitte

Bardot's wicker coffin is carried into the church yesterday; left, tributes at her St Tropez grave and fans outside her funeral

Au revoir, Brigitte...

President absent as hundreds mourn film icon and animal activist Bardot

BY **PETER ALLEN** in Paris

BRIGITTE Bardot was laid to rest in her adopted home of St Tropez yesterday, as relatives snubbed "evil" Emmanuel Macron.

The president kept away from the funeral of France's film legend turned animal rights activist who had attacked his policies.

Her fourth husband Bernard D'Ormale, 83, said family members told the government "to get lost" when officials offered a national commemoration, adding: "Tributes weren't her thing."

Bardot, who died from cancer at 91 last month, had called Macron an "evil being" for failing to set up an animal cruelty register and also accused him of making France a "rubbish dump" due to immigration.

Marine Le Pen, of the right-wing National Rally party, was the most senior politician at the icon's funeral.

Mr D'Ormale was an adviser to her late father Jean-Marie who founded the party. Ms Le Pen said she attended "in a personal and friendly capacity". Bardot's husband said of her last hours: "They were the most moving moments of my life with Brigitte, because she was leaving. She said 'pew pew'.

"I saw her suffering disappear in the next 15 minutes – she became magnificent." Bardot was laid to rest at the Marine Cemetery in St Tropez near the grave of her first husband Roger Vadim who directed 1956's And God Created Woman, her most famous film.

Some 400 guests attended the Roman Catholic service, with music from the Gypsy Kings, while hundreds of mourners outside watched on a giant screen as her wicker coffin was borne inside the Notre-Dame de l'Assomption church.

Her only child Nicolas-Jacques Charrier 65, was sitting in the front row.

A large photo of Bardot with a seal on ice floes off Canada in a 1977 hunting protest, with the words "Merci, Brigitte", was displayed amid floral tributes at the cemetery.

Bardot made 45 films and recorded some 70 pop songs before suddenly retiring from screen life in 1973.

The actress's political views became increasingly controversial and she was fined six times for inciting racial hatred.

Grandchildren Anna, left, and Thea; inset, Le Pen; husband Bernard, 83, below

Bardot in early 1960s. Left, the star in 2007

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Your best sex life is still ahead of you!

Dr Miriam Stoppard on how you can improve intimacy as you become older

By **Hannah Britt**

AGE SHOULD be no barrier to a healthy sex life, according to health expert Dr Miriam Stoppard. For many years, the TV personality and author of more than 80 best-selling books has been giving out frank health advice.

Now 88, she is just as direct when it comes to her tips on improving sex in later life in her new book, Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks: A Guide to Living Your Best Life in Your 60s, 70s, 80s and Beyond.

"I'm here to tell you that you're missing out on great sex," she says.

"Intimacy in older age can be just as good, if not better, than it was when you were younger. I want people to continue to see themselves as sexual beings. Sex goes on and age is no reason for it to stop."

Dr Miriam, who has sold more than 25 million books, wants older romantics to learn how to put the sparkle back into their sex lives.

"Consider it your antidote to ageism," she says. "Your best sex of your life is still ahead of you if you want it. It's just there waiting to be woken up."

Her upbeat tone, incredibly youthful appearance and inspiring message comes despite her fair share of knocks in recent years.

"In the last five years, I've suffered two bereavements – my husband [Sir] Christopher [Hogg] died five years ago, and just a few weeks ago my ex-husband Tom Stoppard passed away. It's kind of a double whammy," says Londoner Dr Miriam. But the way his funeral brought the family together and all his friends old and new was such a sweetness. It helped with the grief and the loss."

Playwright and screenwriter Stoppard and Dr Miriam met in the late 1960s. Falling in love in 1970, they married and had sons Will, a businessman, and Ed, an actor.

"We were married for 22 years," she says. "I'd known him a long time before we got together. He was in my friendship group but quite frankly, I was too nervous and tongue tied to speak to him.

"I was intimidated by his literary reputation. But I couldn't have been more wrong, he was the sweetest person and we had many happy years together."

But the marriage ended in heartbreak, when Stoppard fell for The Good Life actress Felicity Kendal.

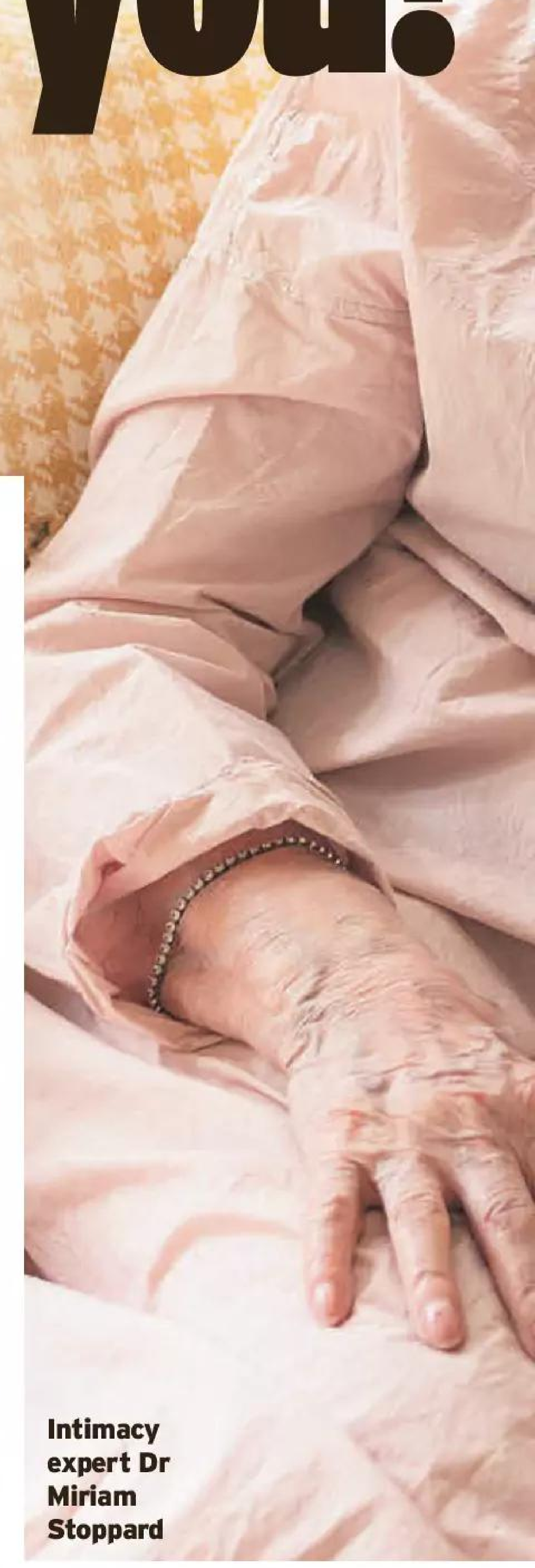
"It was in all the papers – he and her fell in love," says Dr Miriam.

"It was painful but I wasn't angry or anything like that. We were separated at the time and he just said, 'Miri, I want to get a divorce. There may be a moment where me and Felicity want to get married'.

"I think love is so precious. Nobody can control who they fall in love with. Who was I to tell him no? Love is powerful, more powerful than us."

Dr Miriam's faith in the power of intimacy – especially in our later years – continues to this day. We all love intimacy and need it. We crave it until we die," she says.

"Sex, relationships, intimacy, friendships, how you feel about yourself – all of it can get better as you get older. I've always been fascinated with sex and the female body, and I've done endless research on the subject. I even wrote a sex book in the 80s. But back then it was all still a bit taboo.



Intimacy expert Dr Miriam Stoppard

"Now, in 2025, it's time to crumble the stigma of sex in older age.

"Sex at any age provides ecstasy and also reliably makes us feel wanted, cared for, worthwhile, confident and joyous."

DR MIRIAM adds: "Sex brings with it a kind of theatre of positive emotions. And while your body and, therefore, sex may change at every decade of your life, being intimate is no less enjoyable.

"Think of sex, whether in a relationship or single, like an essential vitamin - it floods your body with feelgood, vital sex hormones which are like a life

Picture: PHILIP COBURN

force.” Dr Miriam met second husband Sir Christopher, a renowned businessman, at a dinner party at No10 with the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

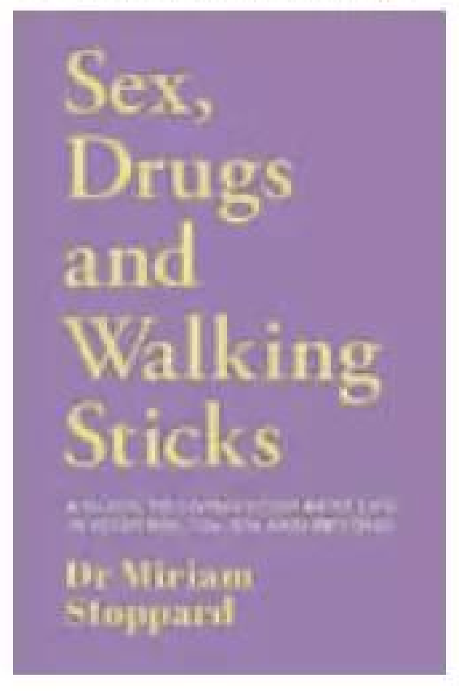
“After meeting in the late 80s, we were together for several years, maybe five, then we got married in the middle to late 90s. I had two wonderful step-daughters from him, too,” she says. “He passed away in December 2021. He had dementia, and I nursed him for two to three years before he died. I miss him terribly.”

Despite her losses Dr Miriam, who is an eternal optimist, retains a wonderfully positive outlook on life.

“Life very much carries on,” she says. “Old age is a new ball game these days. In your 60s, 70s and 80s, you are probably the most assertive that you’ve ever been.

“Most people have more free time and disposable income, take holidays and benefit from medications that can deal with some of the diseases older people can face.

“We’re very lucky. This is a new age of good health, happiness – and sex.”



● *Sex, Drugs And Walking Sticks by Dr Miriam Stoppard (Mirror Books, £20) is on sale now*

FORGET THE PAST

Stop reminiscing about how wonderful sex was and accept what it is now. It might be different, but it can be just as good. It’s a shame if people think they can’t do it anymore - they can. And they should.

YOU'VE STILL GOT IT

You’re not as virile and sexual as you were when you were younger, and that is fine. Make the most of what you have, which is an awful lot. Your body responds to sex whatever age you are, just the way you did when you were younger, given time. Even if you haven’t had sex for a while you can regain the benefits of being in touch with your sexuality.

KEEP GOING

If you have sex all the way through your life, in your 40s and 50s and beyond, you’re likely to keep having good sex later on - so don’t quit!

It’s when you give up on sex that it becomes diminished and you may find it harder to get back on the horse, so to speak.

Don’t put pressure on yourself and your partner, aim for once a week and it’ll make you feel wonderful.

FIND YOUR LIBIDO

Our libido drops as we get older, and we may not want to have sex as often as we used to when we were younger. We just need to give it a little bit more time to wake it up again.

Concentrate on it. Allow yourself to have sexual thoughts. You’ll feel like you have a lot of sex ahead of you if you encourage yourself to think about it. Experiment and explore how to reach into your sexuality and bring it nearer the surface.

REIGNITE THE SPARK

Talk openly with your partner. People think sex is naughty, sinful, that they shouldn’t be having sexual thoughts. I’m giving your permission.

Access your libido, and share it with your partner if you have one. Be unafraid to talk about what you have always wanted to do. Honesty is the key to liberating yourself. And even the chat will be arousing.

Discuss what you’d really like, what you’ve never done but would really like to try - you’ll find that sex will just flow. There’s nothing to be afraid of.

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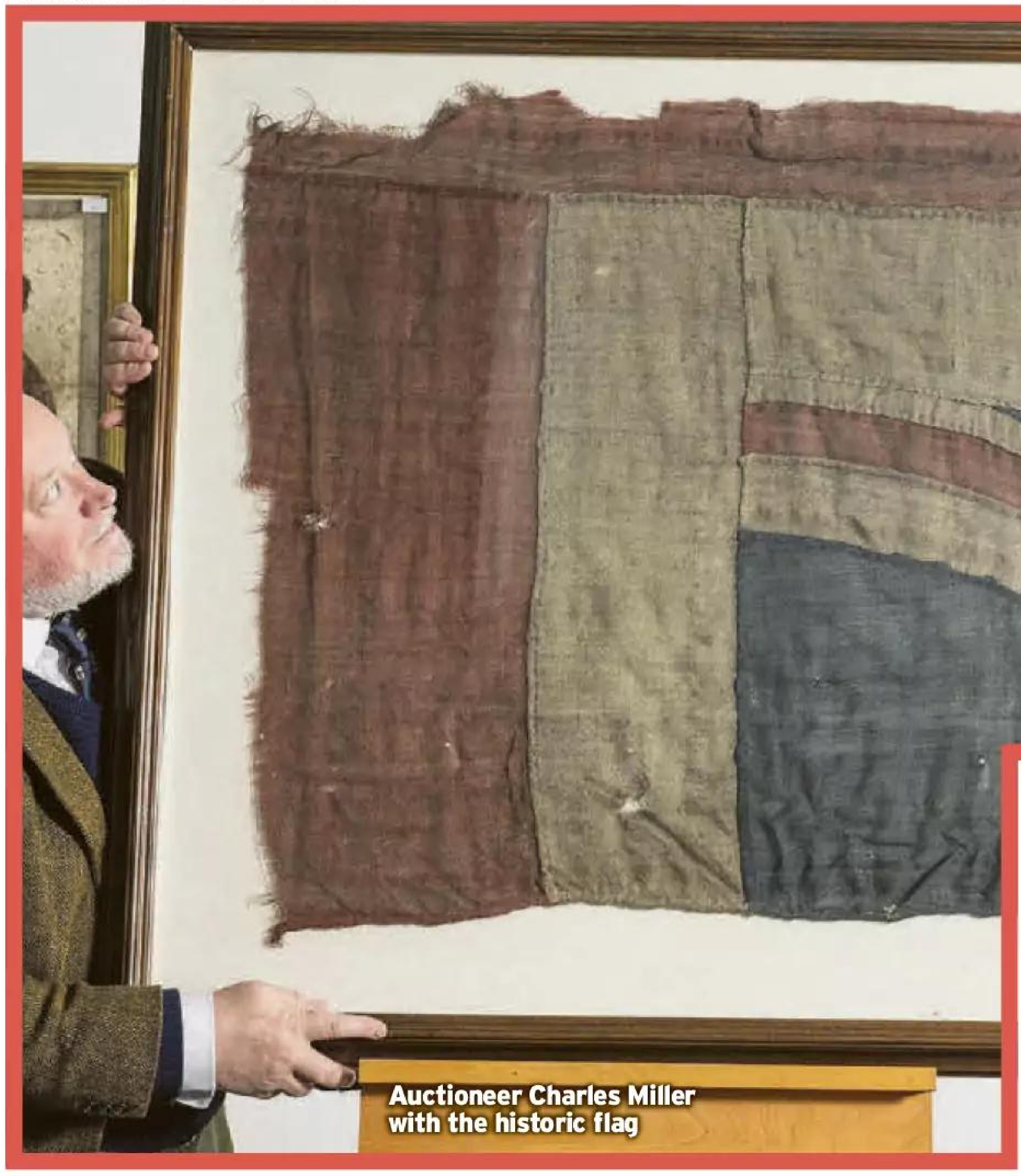

Auctioneer Charles Miller with the historic flag

Nelson's Victory flag flying high

BY **JAMES PODESTA**

A BATTLE-SCARRED fragment of the Union Jack that flew on Admiral Lord Nelson's flagship HMS Victory at Trafalgar has emerged for sale for £700,000.

The section of the red, white and blue ensign has gunpowder stains and tears from the fighting before Nelson was shot by a French sniper on October 21, 1805, when he uttered his final words, "Kiss me, Hardy", to his loyal captain Thomas Hardy.

After the decisive battle that resulted in victory for the British over the French and Spanish fleet, the flag was returned to England with Nelson's body.

It was carried by seamen from HMS Victory during his state funeral procession through London in January 1806.

Instead of placing the ensign in Nelson's vault, they tore it up to keep as souvenirs.

The 34in by 36in hand-stitched section, kept by Captain Hugh Dobbie, is the largest known surviving piece.

It is being sold via auctioneer Charles Miller, of Fulham, London, on January 20, with a £500,000 to £700,000 estimate.

A spokesman said: "Captain Dobbie's fragment is poignant and historically important."

'My parents fear for lives in Iran prison'

Son of captive Brits terrified

EXCLUSIVE

BY **RICHARD ASHMORE**

THE son of a British couple arrested for spying in Iran says his parents fear for their lives amid national unrest.

Craig and Lindsay Foreman were snatched by hardline Iranian authorities on January 3 last year as they travelled across Iran on an around-the-world motorbike trip, to the horror of their son Joe Bennett, 31.

While they are held in the notorious Evin Prison in Iranian capital Tehran, furious protests have broken out outside against the country's Islamist government and its supreme leader, Ali Khamenei.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard, the military force that supports the regime, has a history of brutally suppressing dissent.

Activists say more than 40 people have been killed and 1,200 detained in the latest demonstrations.

And Joe said Craig and Lindsay, both 52, had told him on the phone of horrifying reports about prison authorities.

He said: "They are hearing stories that they're letting prisoners go and as they walk out of the gates they're just shooting them in the back. It's incredibly tough to speak about because you don't want to imagine them in that position or what that looks like.

"My parents are at a serious risk of losing their life."

He said his mother was held among ordinary criminals whereas Craig was with political convicts, adding: "I don't know if that is a bad thing or a good thing. If the Iranian government falls, do Mum and Dad try to get to the embassy, which is 16 kilometres from the prison?

"Do they head for the Turkish border?

"That seems the most sensible route to me, but I don't know."

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said: "We remain deeply concerned that Craig and Lindsay Foreman have been charged with espionage in Iran. We continue to raise this case directly with the Iranian authorities.

"We continue to provide the Foremans with consular assistance and remain in close contact with their family."

Joe Bennett and, above, parents Lindsay and Craig

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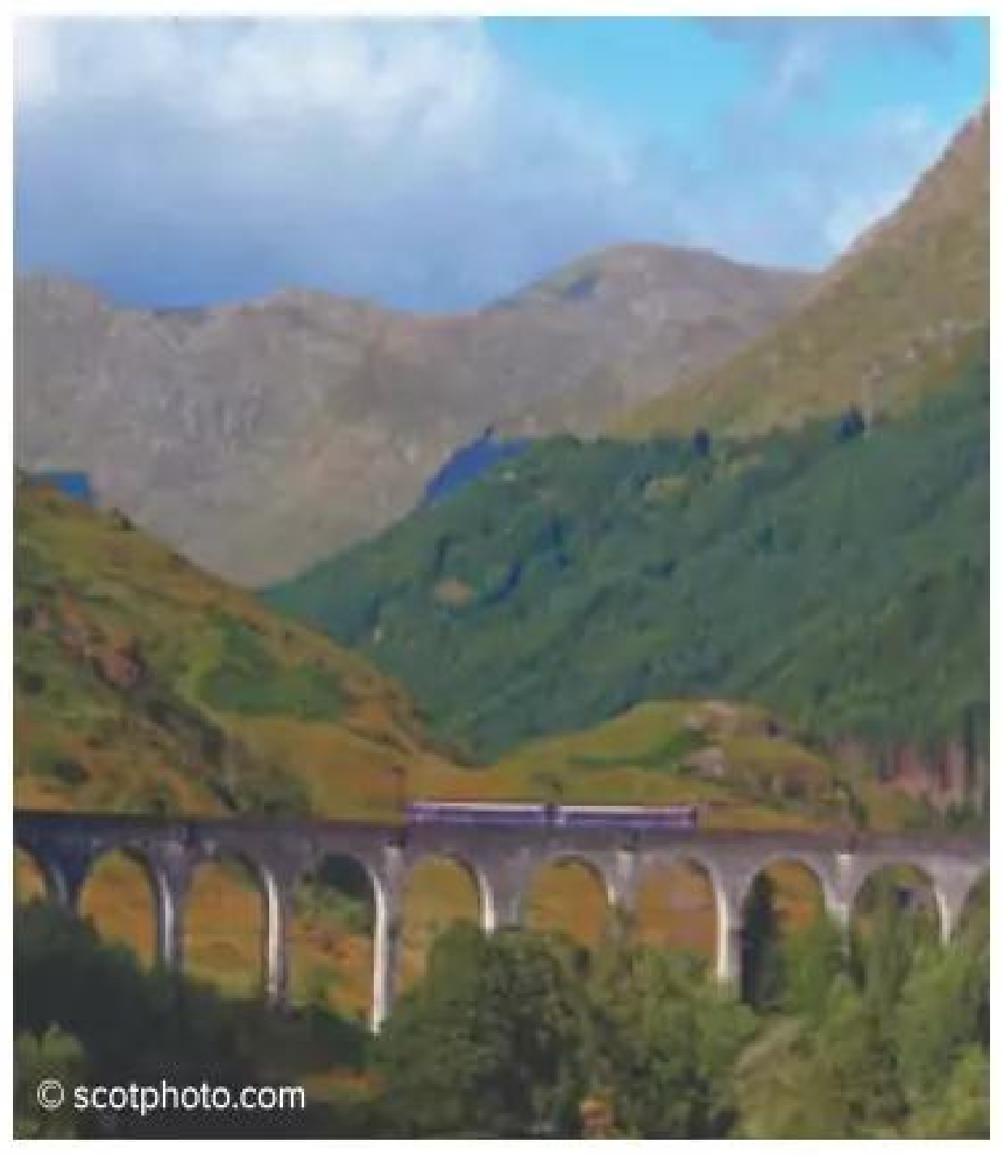

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Will Netflix's Warner Bros takeover kill Hollywood?

EXCLUSIVE

From Peter Sheridan
in Los Angeles

JANE FONDA calls it "catastrophic" and "destructive". Avatar and Titanic director James Cameron condemns it as "horrific" and a "disaster". And now Leonardo DiCaprio has joined the growing chorus of Hollywood A-Listers fearing that Netflix's impending £64billion buyout of legendary studio Warner Bros may foreshadow the death of cinema-going and the end of Hollywood as we know it.

DiCaprio wonders whether movie theatres are outdated dinosaurs facing extinction as the Netflix asteroid looms – or can they be saved? "Do people still have the appetite?" asks the 51-year-old whose latest Oscar front-running movie One Battle After Another was released on subscription service HBO Max last month. "Or will cinemas become silos – like jazz bars?"

Indeed, visiting the cinema to share a communal big-screen experience may become as archaic as vaudeville, as Netflix leads a battalion of streaming services keeping audiences at home. Its insiders claim that cinemas would be given only a two-week window to screen movies to qualify for Academy Award consideration before they are moved to streaming.

Netflix chief Ted Sarandos, leading the takeover bid for Warner Bros, has called going to cinemas to watch films "an outdated idea", something which has outraged James Cameron. "Sarandos has gone on the record saying theatrical films are dead," said the Titanic director. "Theatrical is dead. Quote, unquote."

While DiCapiro's latest thriller is winning critical acclaim, the £130million production is struggling to break even after garnering less than stellar box office earnings, transferring to streaming on HBO Max just two months after its release.

"We're looking at a huge transition," DiCaprio told The Sunday Times recently. "First, documentaries disappeared from cinemas. Now, dramas only get finite time and people wait to see it on streamers."

Cinema owners warn of mass theatre closures and lay-offs if the Netflix buy-up goes ahead. Many in Hollywood view Netflix's imminent acquisition of Warner Bros as a watershed moment in movie history.

Founded in 1923 by brothers Sam, Jack, Harry and Albert Warner, it is one of only five major studios left in an increasingly fractured Hollywood, alongside Walt Disney, Universal, Paramount and Sony.

Warner Bros yesterday told its shareholders to reject a rival £80billion hostile takeover bid from Paramount, controlled by the billionarie Larry Ellison's family.

Its vast library includes the Harry Potter franchise, the DC Comics universe, streaming service HBO and television classics including Friends and Game Of Thrones.

Netflix's acquisition of these assets would make it even more of a global powerhouse than it already is. Already the 800lb gorilla in the Hollywood jungle, the buyout threatens to transform the streaming service into an unstoppable King Kong.

Netflix spent around £13billion creating content last year, while Warners spent £15billion. Combined, the resulting mega-studio would account for 18% of industry spending.

Warner dominated Hollywood with the biggest movie market share last year, with hits including Sinners, A Minecraft Movie, Superman and Weapons. By contrast, Netflix debuts original movies in cinemas largely to qualify for Oscars, and on only a few hundred screens rather than the typical thousands by other studios.

Many in Hollywood fear that a super-sized Netflix would mean a narrower range of storytelling, bending the entire industry to its algorithm-driven, cost-cutting and risk-averse vision.

And so the "long-prophesied death" of Hollywood "may finally arrive", warns former Amazon Studios chief Roy Price. "Not in the sense that film-making will cease but in the sense that Hollywood will become a system that circles a single sun, materially changing its cultural output," he says. "All orbits – every deal, every creative decision, every creative career – will increasingly revolve around the gravitational mass and imprimatur of one entity."

During its brief 28-year life, Netflix has

Leonardo DiCaprio has voiced concerns over the future of films at cinemas

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Fans queue to see Moonraker at Odeon Marble Arch in 1979

already upended a century-old industry, making many enemies in the process.

"Producers hate Netflix because they can't get back-end profits," says Sharon Waxman, editor of online Hollywood magazine The Wrap. "A-list actors and their agents hate that they've put a lid on salaries and residuals. Studios hate Netflix as it poached their talent and jacked up executive salaries. Exhibitors hate Netflix because the streamer is undermining the theatrical business by convincing people it's better to stay on the couch."

LAUNCHED in 1997 as a DVD rental business, Netflix's plunge into streaming in 2007 was dismissed by many in Hollywood as nothing to fret about. Video rental giant Blockbuster executives "had to suppress laughter" when invited to buy Netflix for $50million in 2000, roundly rejecting the offer. Blockbuster went bust 10 years later.

In 2010, Time Warner's CEO Jeff Bewkes dismissed Netflix as a threat, saying: "It's a little bit like, is the Albanian army going to take over the world? I don't think so."

Yet the Albanian army has not only conquered the planet, but is breaking down Hollywood's studio gates. The takeover deal is expected to close within 18 months, but the US Justice Department may choose to investigate it in light of anti-trust laws.

"It's a lot of market share," admits President Donald Trump. "It could be a problem."

Director Guillermo del Toro, whose latest movie Frankenstein was produced by Netflix, urges audiences to view films in cinemas. "There's no substitute" for the big screen and "the power of cinema", he says.

"For people that see them on their phone… it takes 38,000 of those little things to form a screen."

Audiences have been gathering to watch actors perform since the ancient Greeks staged tragedies 2,500 years ago, and when cinemas arrived in 1895, they quickly spread worldwide. American moviegoing peaked in the 1940s when some 20,000 cinemas sold up to 90 million tickets weekly: around 4.6 billion tickets a year.

Though there are more than 31,000 movie screens in the US today, only around 780 million tickets were sold last year.

MOVIEGOING crested in the UK in 1946 with around 1.64 billion tickets sold, but plunged more than 90% to the roughly 157 million cinema tickets sold last year. Many wrongly predicted the death of Hollywood with the advent of television, and then DVDs, and more recently streaming services.

But Netflix taking over a major Hollywood studio has the industry worried like never before, fearing that other studios will be forced to follow Netflix's lead to compete.

It comes as film and television production is falling, cinema ticket sales are slackening, and Hollywood studios are slashing staff.

A consortium of industry leaders comprising film producers and executives last month sent an open letter to the US Congress warning of a Hollywood meltdown that would "destroy" cinemas if the Netflix takeover of Warner goes ahead.

Netflix would "effectively hold a noose around the theatrical marketplace" said the group, who remained anonymous "not out of cowardice" but in fear of retaliation from the streaming behemoth.

Theatre owners group Cinema United chief Michael O'Leary warns that the deal "poses an unprecedented threat to the global exhibition business".

The Writers Guild also opposes the deal, warning: "The outcome would eliminate jobs, push down wages, worsen conditions for all entertainment workers, raise prices for consumers, and reduce the volume and diversity of content for all viewers."

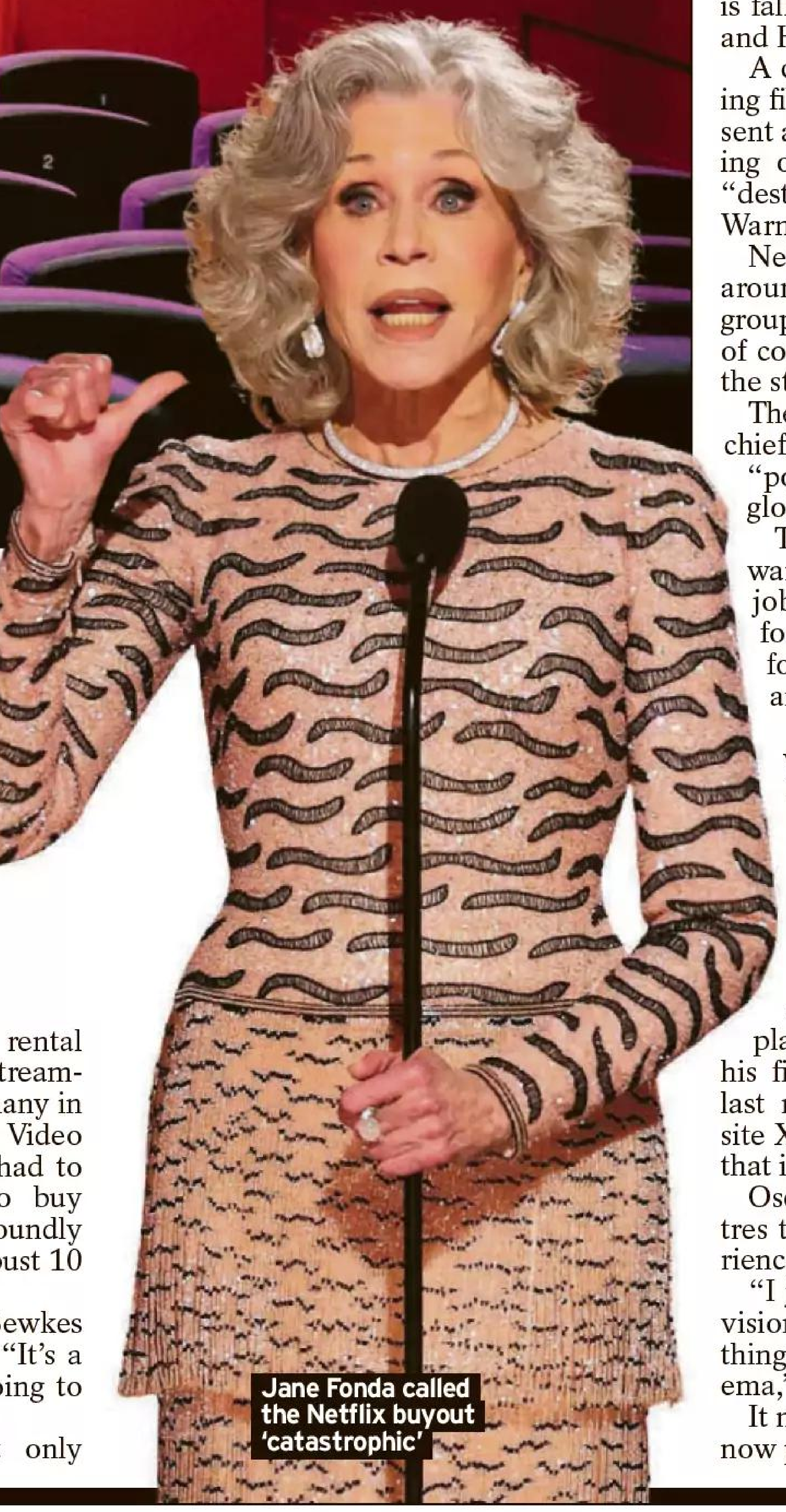
Netflix chief Sarandos insists that he would keep Warner movies in cinemas longer than just a week or two, but James Cameron is sceptical, saying: "Sorry, Ted, but geez. It's sucker bait… I think that's fundamentally rotten at the core."

Rian Johnson, director of the latest Netflix-produced Knives Out instalment Wake Up Dead Man, openly complained about how few cinemas screened his film before Netflix started streaming it last month. Speaking out on social media site X, he told fans: "I'm as frustrated as you that it's not everywhere."

Oscar winner DiCaprio wants movie theatres to continue staging extraordinary experiences, but he has his doubts.

"I just hope enough people, who are real visionaries, get opportunities to do unique things in the future that are seen in the cinema," he says. "But that remains to be seen."

It may be a movie cliché, but Hollywood is now praying for a happy ending.



Jane Fonda called the Netflix buyout 'catastrophic'

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task.

For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

										YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	17	x3	-35	TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT	+59	6/9 OF THIS	x2	-65	x2	
Intermediate	9	+15	x12	-52	3/4 OF THIS	+48	2/3 OF THIS	+19	TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT	
Advanced	523	-278	INCREASE BY 60%	-124	INCREASE BY 25%	+267	÷43	SQUARE IT	+47	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7
LOTTERY
3 9 20 33 45 50 12
THUNDERBALL
1 10 13 26 38 6

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6
EUROMILLIONS 5 14 17 18 31 10 12
THUNDERBALL 1 2 16 22 30 4

MONDAY, JANUARY 5
SET FOR LIFE 4 22 32 33 36 7

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7
22 29 31 41 49 5

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6
6 11 16 30 46 20

The Health Lottery has raised more than £135m for health-related causes since 2011. Details at thehealthlotteryfoundation.org.uk

PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Tuesday:
Should food industry face legally binding targets on salt content?

YES: 86%
NO: 14%

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Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

		2			6	4		
			9	8		2	5	
5		1		4		7		8
8	5		7				1	2
				1		3		
6	1		2		9		4	
		9		5		6		4
	6	5		2	8			9
		8	6			5		

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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

6	1	9	8	7	4	5	3	2
5	3	4	1	2	6	7	8	9
7	8	2	5	3	9	6	4	1
9	7	1	2	8	5	4	6	3
3	6	8	4	1	7	2	9	5
4	2	5	6	9	3	1	7	8
8	4	3	7	5	2	9	1	6
1	5	7	9	6	8	3	2	4
2	9	6	3	4	1	8	5	7

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- ✓ Position: Full sun /part sun / part shade
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- ✓ Good for: Borders, pots, containers, pollinators, low-maintenance gardens, ground cover, cuttings, front of beds, baskets

For many gardens, the gap between winter and spring feels long, and Polyanthus Showstopper Fire Dragon helps bridge it. Fiery red flowers with golden yellow centres rise above tidy evergreen rosettes, bringing early colour to borders and pots. This hardy primula prefers partial sun and moist, well-drained soil. Plant in autumn or early spring for best results. Regular deadheading encourages extended flowering. Supplied as one plant in a 1L pot, it suits both novice and experienced UK gardeners.

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Teen entrepreneur suppers for singing

BY **JAMES GAMBLE**

YOU'VE heard of singing for your supper – now meet the teenage choirboy who suppers for his singing.

Malaki Conteh, 13, is the first ever black chief chorister at Chichester Cathedral, and funds his £4,000-per-term scholarship fee as a full-time boarder at a nearby school through his successful food business.

The precocious youngster had seen choristers singing in a YouTube video, and when he said he wanted to do that, his dad told him to start saving for singing lessons.

At the age of six Malaki started selling plants outside his dad's office in Camberwell, South East London, before moving on to selling bread and cakes.

He went on to make authentic Caribbean recipes with his mum and grandmother, selling them from his flagship store in Crystal Palace and at his home in Warlingham, Surrey.

After paying for his own singing, violin and ballet lessons Malaki auditioned for the best cathedral schools, choosing Chichester after being offered a 50% scholarship.

And on Christmas Eve he proudly led the venerable choir as its first black chief chorister.

He said: "I was really happy and proud. It was really great."

When he is away at school his dad Abdul Conteh, a legal adviser, runs the business but Malaki keeps watch over everything – even insisting Abdul pays for anything he eats.

Abdul, 63, said: "Malaki is a true businessman. The neighbour parks her big 4x4 in our driveway, and she pays Malaki £65 a month into his scholarship account for it. At the age of around six he bought his first mini violin. At nine, his own piano. At 10, his first iPad.

"He sold plants on Facebook to raise the £778 to buy two violas. He wanted a Seiko watch, so he bought it himself, then upgraded to an Apple watch. Malaki is very hard-working and polite; everybody loves him."

As well as funding his own school fees and the occasional treat, Malaki also donates to several charitable projects including an equine therapy venture set up by his ex-violin teacher.

He said: "I will always continue my business.

"I want to give back and help people. All the hard work is worth it."

Malaki serving up food at his outlet, above, and inset left, as a leading schoolboy chorister

The Kew's who of plants and fungi

Spider killer among top 10 newly described species

BY **FRANCES MILLAR**

A "BLOODSTAINED" orchid and a "zombie" spider-killing fungus are among the top 10 plant and fungi species newly described by science in 2025.

The annual list, compiled by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and international scientists, also includes a New Guinean tree with fruit which tastes of banana, guava and eucalyptus.

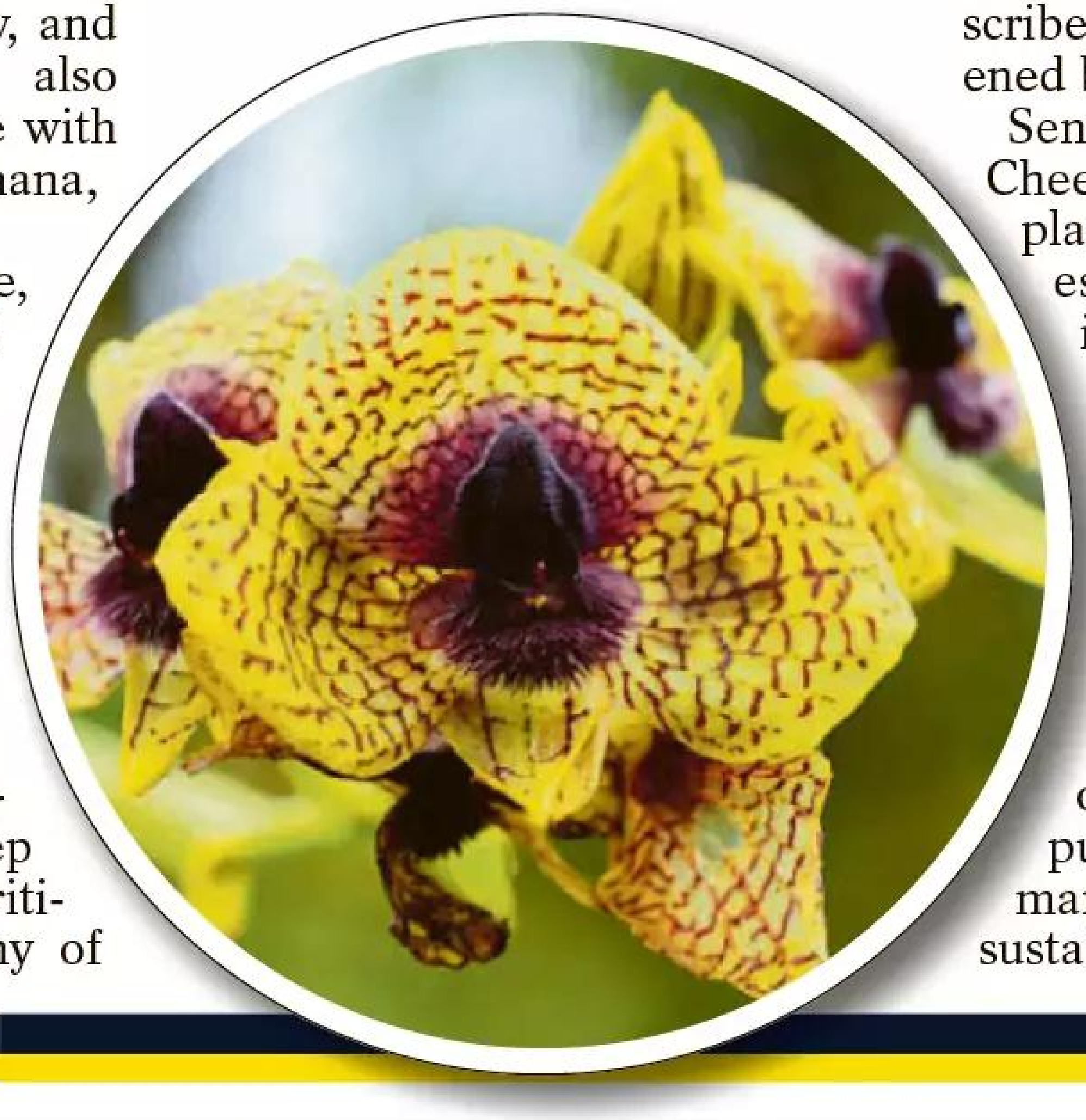
Over the past year alone, Kew formally described 125 new plant species and 65 fungi worldwide.

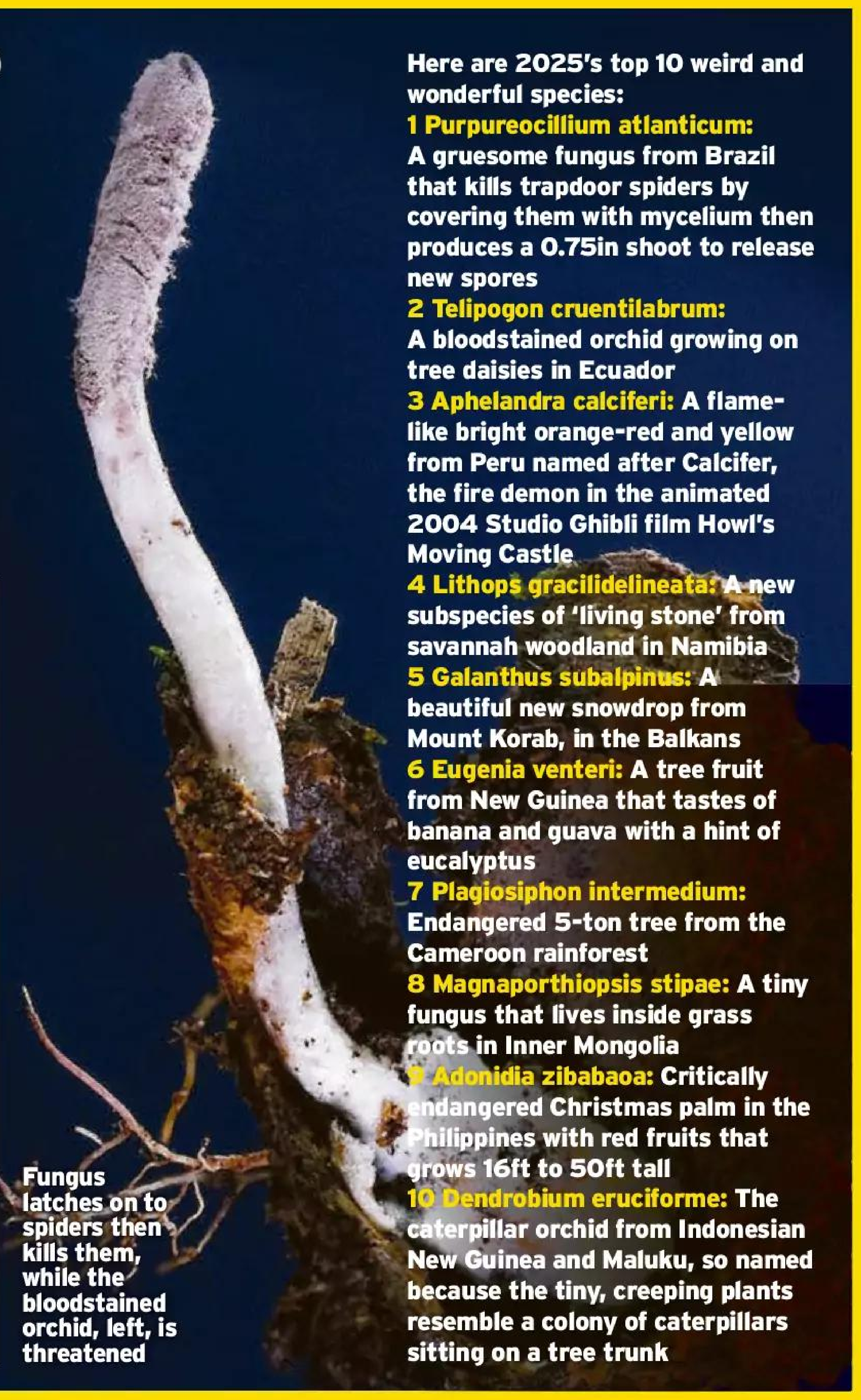
Among the most striking is the fungus, a parasite on trapdoor spiders in Brazil's Atlantic rainforest, which manipulates its host before killing it. The orchid, from Ecuador, was given its informal name because of its deep crimson markings. But it is critically endangered – and many of the newly identified species are already at risk of extinction. At least one, Cryptacanthus ebo, that was found in Cameroon's Ebo Forest and comes from the acanthus or bear's breeches family, is feared to have already vanished from the wild. Kew estimates up to three-quarters of 100,000 undescribed plant species are threatened before science records them.

Senior research leader Dr Martin Cheek said: "Describing new plant and fungal species is essential at a time when the impacts of biodiversity loss and climate change accelerate before our eyes.

"Human activities are eroding nature to the point of extinction. We simply cannot keep up with the pace of destruction.

"If we fail to invest in taxonomy, conservation and public awareness, we risk dismantling the very systems that sustain our life on Earth."





Fungus latches on to spiders then kills them, while the bloodstained orchid, left, is threatened

Here are 2025's top 10 weird and wonderful species:

1 Purpureocillium atlanticum: A gruesome fungus from Brazil that kills trapdoor spiders by covering them with mycelium then produces a 0.75in shoot to release new spores

2 Telipogon cruentilabrum: A bloodstained orchid growing on tree daisies in Ecuador

3 Aphelandra calciferi: A flame-like bright orange-red and yellow from Peru named after Calcifer, the fire demon in the animated 2004 Studio Ghibli film Howl's Moving Castle

4 Lithops gracilidelineata: A new subspecies of 'living stone' from savannah woodland in Namibia

5 Galanthus subalpinus: A beautiful new snowdrop from Mount Korab, in the Balkans

6 Eugenia venteri: A tree fruit from New Guinea that tastes of banana and guava with a hint of eucalyptus

7 Plagiosiphon intermedium: Endangered 5-ton tree from the Cameroon rainforest

8 Magnaporthiopsis stipae: A tiny fungus that lives inside grass roots in Inner Mongolia

9 Adonidia zibabaoa: Critically endangered Christmas palm in the Philippines with red fruits that grows 16ft to 50ft tall

10 Dendrobium eruciforme: The caterpillar orchid from Indonesian New Guinea and Maluku, so named because the tiny, creeping plants resemble a colony of caterpillars sitting on a tree trunk

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TECH
SHAPE OF THE FUTURE

Edited by **DAVE SNELLING**

SAMSUNG ENTERS A NEW DIMENSION

Samsung gaming screen
Gamers are in for an eye-pleasing treat thanks to Samsung's new Odyssey display.

This latest, 32-inch screen not only offers stunning 6K visuals and silky smooth refresh rate but also full 3D graphics without the need for annoying glasses.

The Odyssey 3D is powered by clever real-time eye tracking, which adjusts depth and perspective in response to the viewer's position.

There's no word on price or UK release just yet, but watch this space.

WATCH OUT

Fancy a smartwatch without paying Apple or Samsung prices? The new Active Max from Amazfit will help you kickstart your fitness journey without breaking the bank. This £169 wearable features a large AMOLED display, full activity tracking, a heart rate monitor and even personalised AI-powered plans that could save you money on a personal trainer. You can use it to pay without the need for a wallet, and full maps access will also help you find your way from A to B It's on sale now at uk.amazfit.com

POWER UP AT OHME

Ohme Car Charger
Despite recent energy price rises, you can still refill your electric car for less than £6. The clever charger from Ohme works with dynamic electricity tariffs, such as Intelligent Octopus Go, to top up the tank in the night. That's when costs can drop to just 7p per kWh.

With the current price of petrol at around £6.17 per gallon (£1.36 per litre), a typical engine-powered car would travel around 40 miles on one gallon of fuel. The same amount spent charging an EV with Ohme could see you travel more than 350 miles for the same price.

TECH & MOTORING

32 Tech
34 Motoring
37 TV Guide
42 Your Letters
44 Horoscopes
PLUS Puzzles

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SPEEDY WI-FI JETS INTO THE SKIES

Next time you hop on a plane, your Netflix box set binges won't be interrupted by annoying buffering.

A major update is coming that will offer millions of passengers super-fast broadband speeds at 38,000 feet.

Virgin Atlantic and British Airways will start installing Elon Musk's Starlink technology later this year, which is capable of beaming the web to seats at speeds in excess of 200Mbps.

At that rapid rate, a full movie could be whizzed to passengers in under three minutes.

Starlink also promises to offer high-speed internet access worldwide, including in the most remote areas.

Virgin has confirmed that its Flying Club members will receive the fastest wi-fi in the skies entirely free of charge. "The new service allows our guests to create a home away from home experience," said Siobhan Fitzpatrick, Virgin Atlantic's chief experience officer.

"It will allow customers to connect seamlessly, from the moment they board the aircraft, enjoying the same quality in the air as they do on the ground," she added.

BA has also confirmed that, once fully fitted, all customers, whichever cabin they're travelling in, will have free access to the service for streaming, working and keeping in touch.

Sean Doyle, British Airways' Chairman and CEO described the addition of Starlink connectivity to the BA fleet as a major milestone in the airline's transformation journey.

Lust for power ...and gadgets

Fed up with your devices always running out of juice? Charge into the new year with these very smart accessories that will refill those batteries in a jiffy

MOPHIE 3-IN-1 TRAVEL CHARGER, £149.95 FROM APPLE

This smart travel accessory from Mophie can fast charge your iPhone, Apple Watch and AirPods without any fuss.

It folds up neatly to take up less space in your suitcase and even comes with changeable plugs to cover your daily battery boosting in the UK, Europe, America and other parts of the globe.

If you travel a lot, this is a charger you should never leave home without.

BLUETTI 60W SOLAR PANEL, £99 FROM AMAZON

If you're heading off the beaten track and want to stay connected, then this clever charger should do the trick. The BLUETTI solar panel harnesses the sun's rays to top up your smartphone and can even generate enough power to charge three gadgets simultaneously.

It features a lightweight design, is splash-resistant and has hooks that can attach it to your backpack.

ANKER
140
140W

ANKER PRIME 140W PLUG, £54.99 FROM ARGOS

When all of your devices suddenly run out of power, this neat plug from Anker can refill everything at once.

The Anker Prime 140W accessory features four ports and can fast charge devices such as laptops, phones and tablets in a matter of minutes.

Smart ActiveShield technology also monitors temperatures to ensure everything remains safe, and the three plug pins retract for easy portability too.

DJI POWER 2000, £1,099 FROM DJI

The DJI Power 2000 ensures you'll never run out of juice. This massive battery pack can refill phones and tablets, along with powering camping lights, cinema projectors, coffee machines, fans and even portable fridges.

It does cost a whopping £1,100, but it is the ultimate charger for camping, garden parties or for those times when the electricity gets cut off.

ANKER'S 3-IN-1 PRIME WIRELESS CHARGING STATION, £129 FROM AMAZON

iPhone and Android users will love this latest battery booster. Anker's 3-in-1 Prime Wireless Charging Station features faster Qi2 wireless tech, which can refill things more quickly.

It's also compatible with the iPhone's MagSafe system and Google's Pixel Snap upgrade, which means these devices snap neatly onto the stand.

There's even a screen that shows how fast things are being topped up and it has cooling to stop things from getting too toasty during charges.

BELKIN BOOST CHARGE, £59.95 FROM APPLE

Anyone with an iPhone will love this neat power pack from Belkin. The Boost Charge gets MagSafe technology, which snaps to the rear of the phone for more efficient refilling.

Once attached, it can keep the iPhone's screen glowing for an extra 16 hours, features a kickstand which pops out of its case, and there are lights that show exactly how much juice is left in the battery.

It comes in a number of colours, including eye-catching Teal and a very bright Pink.

STREAM DREAM *Watching shows on foreign trips without nasty bill shocks*

Travel win with roam sweet roam

You can save on holidays with eSIM tech, meaning you only pay local data rates

If you are travelling abroad this year and want to keep posting on Instagram or bingeing on boxsets, then you're going to need plenty of mobile data. Some UK networks continue to offer free roaming as part of their existing plans, but many new contracts now require phone owners to pay substantial fees when travelling abroad. For example, EE can charge £5 per day to access your UK data allowance when in the US, and Vodafone wants you to pay an extra £7.86 every 24 hours when in certain parts of the world. These high fees could mean a family of four face a bill of over £100 during a week-long trip.

Luckily, there is another way. All new smartphones now feature clever eSIM technology, which lets you add extra virtual SIMs when travelling. This means you only pay local rates for data, rather than incurring annoying roaming charges. There are numerous options available from various companies, including Saily and Holafly.

Airalo is another top choice, with the company recently making the whole process of travelling with an eSIM feel far easier and more user-friendly. Airalo prices start from £3.50 for 1GB of data in the US, and you can choose how many days you want the access to last.

There are three-day, seven-day, 10-day and even 30-day options available, with each offering different levels of data. So you could buy a seven-day SIM with 5GB of data for £10.50 or a 30-day SIM with 50GB for £32.50. It's a bit like pick and mix, with a deal to suit all needs.

You just set up an account, download the app, choose your desired plan, pay the fee then install the eSIM. It's worth shopping around to find the best option, but if you are fed up with paying sky-high roaming fees, then it's worth giving it a go.

Mel B sets tone at Apple

10:09
Fitness+
For You
Explore
Plans
Library
TIME TO WALK
Mel B
Activity Types
Meditation
Strength
Yoga
Summary
Fitness+
Workout
Sharing
10:09
Time to Walk
Mel B
Talk: 17min
Music: 13min

MOTIVATING *Mel B Time To Walk episodes*

Apple Fitness+ is getting a heart-racing boost that could help you fight the festive flab. The subscription service has just added a series of multi-week programs designed to motivate you and support your 2026 goals.

There are Strength, HIIT and Yoga classes that gradually build over a month, allowing you to get fitter at a gentle pace. All content can be viewed on devices including the iPhone, iPad and Apple TV, and features can be enhanced via the Apple Watch or the latest AirPods Pro buds. These accessories work in conjunction with Fitness+ to track heart rate and measure calories.

Other extras coming to Fitness+ include new episodes of Time to Walk, featuring Spice Girl Mel B and US actress Michelle Monaghan sharing stories as you walk.

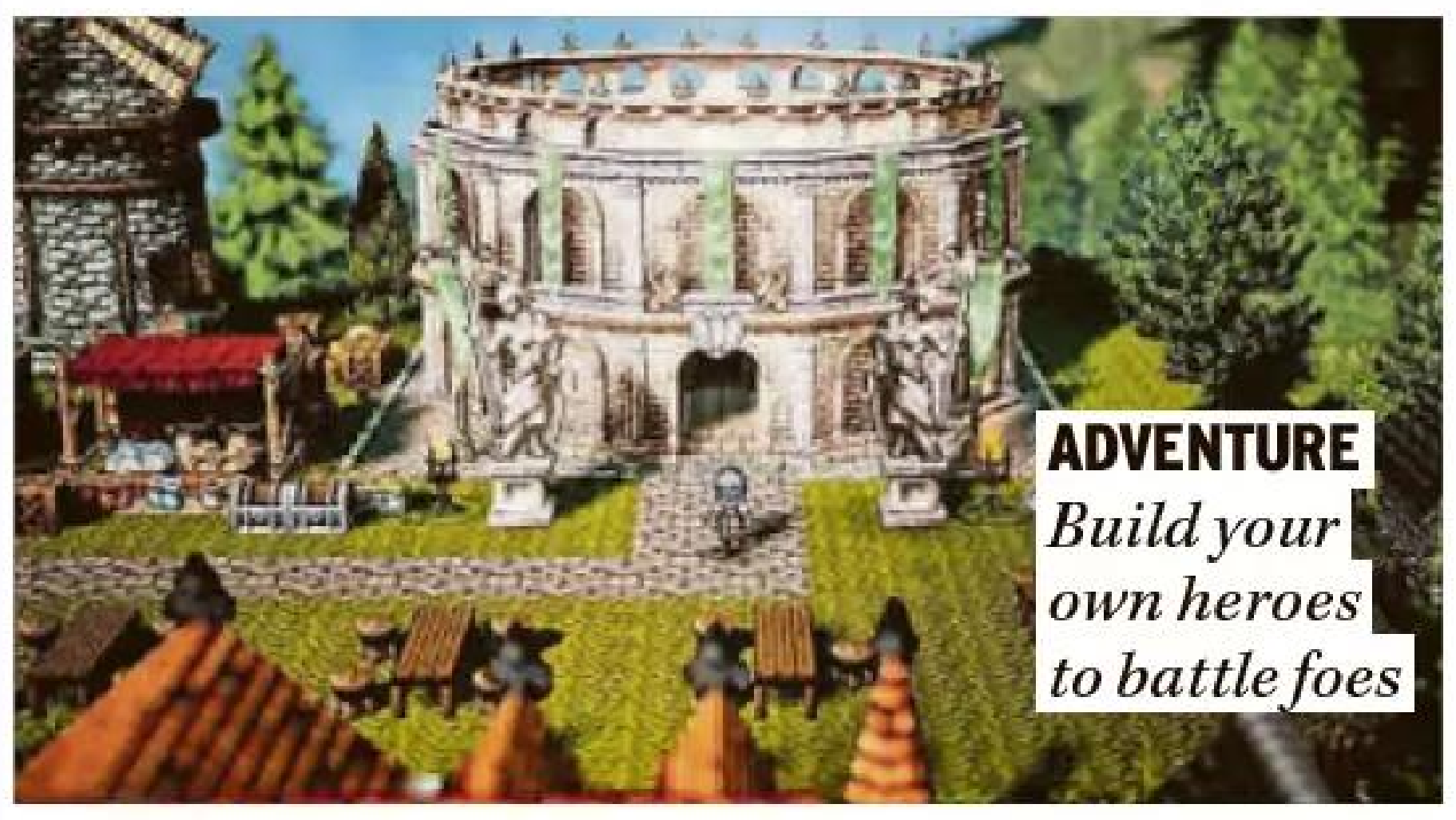
Apple Fitness+ is available for £9.99 per month or £79.99 per year.

:25
05:43
122
42 CAL
:25
10:09
05:43
122
42 ACTIVE CAL
50 TOTAL CAL

SHAPING UP *New classes with Apple Fitness+*

GAMING NEWS

By **TOM HUTCHISON**



ADVENTURE *Build your own heroes to battle foes*

OCTOPATH TRAVELER O (PS5, XBOX SERIES X, SWITCH 2 AND PC, £49.99)

Gamers seeking a deep and narrative-driven, turn-based role-play title this winter won't go wrong with this hit. Octopath Traveler O aims to offer a game where you start from a completely blank page and create your own epic adventure.

Fans of the first Octopath Traveler will know what to expect: a beautifully drawn, old-school-looking, side-scrolling video game with pixel-style graphics.

Think of a mix of 8-bit style design and Minecraftian backdrops, reminiscent of something from the SNES days of the 90s.

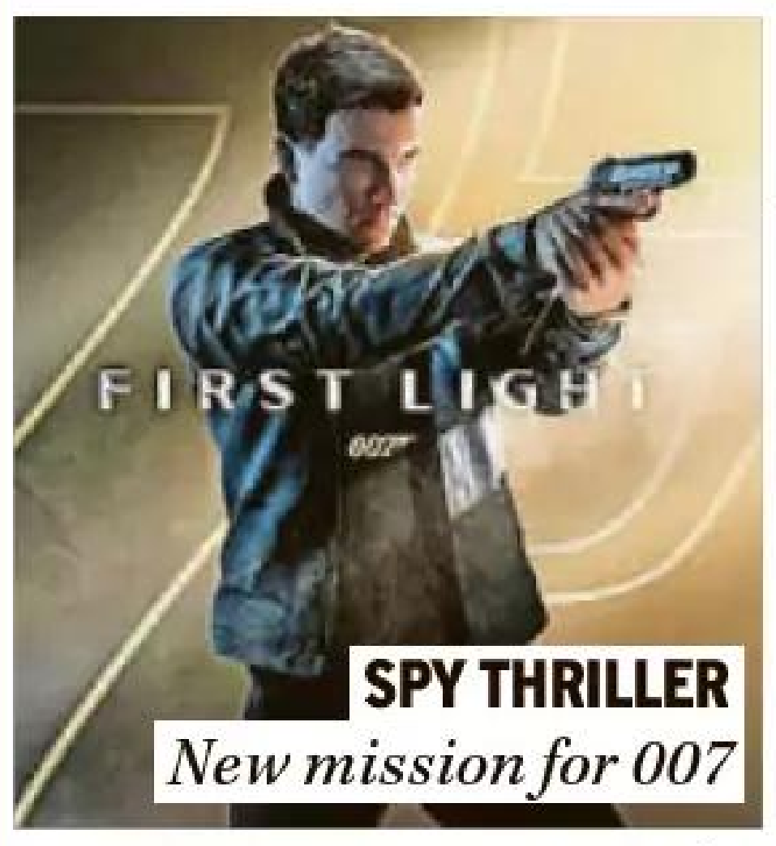
You start by picking one of eight job classes for your protagonist. They include warrior, hunter, merchant, scholar, dancer and thief.

Each one provides a basis for building a hero, for example, the warrior will excel with swords and be good at attacks in fights.

And as you skill up with new abilities and powers, you and any buddies you sign up along the journey can work together to inflict maximum damage on foes, while also boosting the health of pals around you.

It's tough from the off and you'll have to work out strategies and combinations with up-to-eight allies to break through defences and defeat ever-harder villains as the game progresses.

It is a lovely-looking title, packed full of hours of turn-based gameplay and a chunky world that you can turn into your own land, albeit with a fairly linear storyline.



SPY THRILLER *New mission for 007*

007 FIRST LIGHT

James Bond fans have a new game to look forward to this year, and it's been a long time coming.

007 First Light is the first title to feature the British super spy since 2012's 007 Legends. It will include a reimagined original story and star Dexter: Original Sin actor Patrick Gibson in the lead role.

Sadly, it won't arrive on consoles as quickly as many may have hoped.

The due date of March 27 has just been pushed back by two months, as developer IO Interactive said they needed extra time to "further polish" the game.

LOGITECH PRO X

Smaller-handed gamers will love this clicky little gaming mouse.

The Logitech Pro X Superlight 2C glides effortlessly around your desk, while offering precision for fast-playing online stars to battle for multiplayer dominance.

It's an incredibly compact 53g mouse featuring high-tech gizmos under the hood for accurate, speedy control of your favourite titles. It's also comfy and exactly what pro gamers will want to use when playing competitive titles.

A no-brainer for wannabe professionals, even at a costly £160.

MOTORING TESTED TRUSTED DRIVEN

DS' performer packs a punch

DS Automobiles, a premium sub-brand of Citroen, has launched its DS3 and No4 DS Performance Line range.

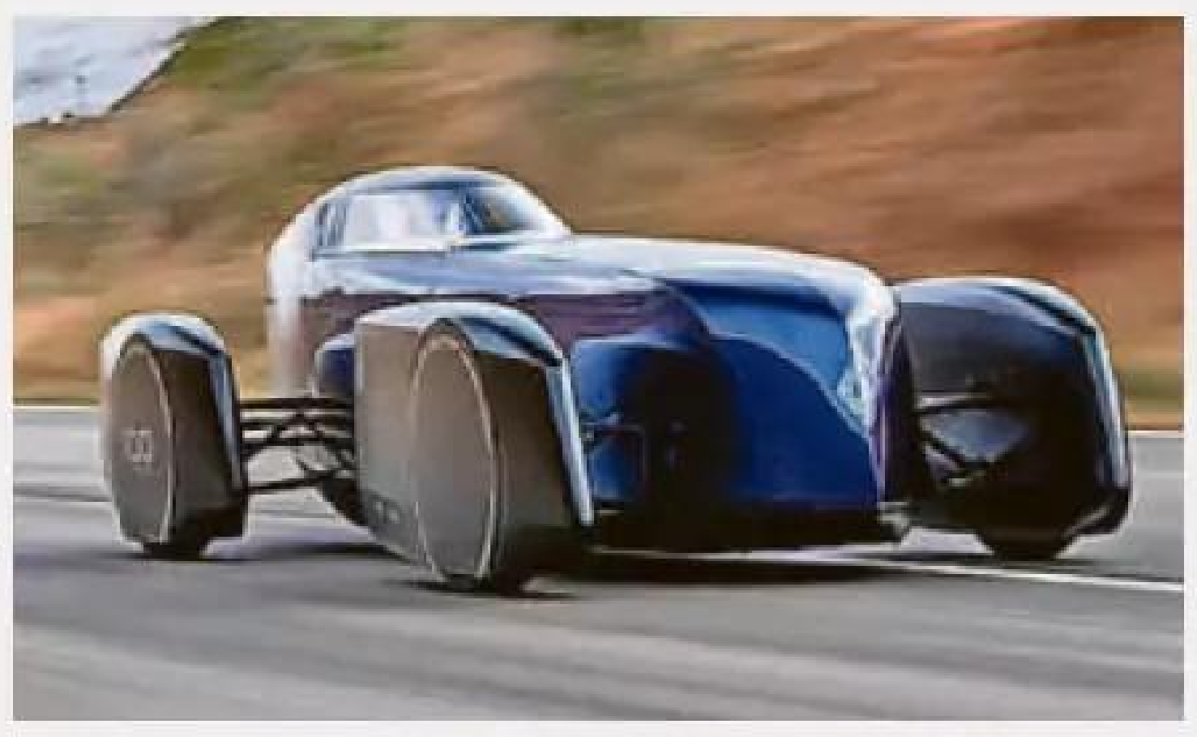
The DS3 has 17in black alloys with gold centre caps, fabric and Alcantara upholstery, dash lettering, satin gold mirror caps and a gold Formula E motif on the C-pillars.

Under the bonnet, choose a 1.2-litre turbocharged petrol engine mated to an electric motor to produce 143bhp, or go electric with a 54kWh battery and an electric motor that lasts 250 miles.

The No4 DS gets similar detailing but 19in alloys.

You can choose the same hybrid set-up as the DS3, while the E-Tense electric comes fitted with a 61kWh battery and an electric motor to produce 210bhp and 280 miles. There is also a plug-in hybrid, equipped with a 1.6-litre turbocharged petrol engine mated to an electric motor and 14.6kWh battery. Prices for the DS3 start at £33,410 while the No4 range starts at £33,400.

DS No4



RENAULT MAKES ADVANCES IN EV

Renault has just broken a world record for EV efficiency with its Filante electric concept car.

Weighing just 1,000kg, it has 3D printed components and the same 87kWh battery found in the Scenic E-Tech electric SUV. The French firm drove the Filante 626 miles in 10 hours around the UTAC test track in Morocco. The car achieved an average speed of over 68mph with an electricity consumption of 7.9 miles per kilowatt – a real-world range of more than 687 miles.

At the end, the car still had 11% of charge remaining, which would allow it to travel an additional 74 miles at speeds of 62mph.

Although there are no plans to produce the car, project manager Olivier Blanche said: "We battled weather and aerodynamics, but what stands out most is the adventure: a motivating collective challenge, driven by dedication of the Renault teams."

0,6 G
36 psi
12 m/min

APPY DAYS FOR BMW'S M PEOPLE

BMW is taking the digital in-car user experience to the next level with the "BMW M in-car apps" – available on M Sport and M models.

An "M-Cockpit" will provide data about the car's driving dynamics, chassis, powertrain and geodata. The "M Drag Metre" is designed for those who do drag racing and displays driver reaction, acceleration and quarter-mile times. The "M Channel app" allows drivers to watch BMW M videos, such as how-to tutorials, while they take a break.

Sylvia Neubauer, vice president for brand, customer and sales at BMW M, said: "Our new in-car apps give drivers a deeper insight into their vehicle and expand the range of uses.

BMW's M in-car apps will be available on the new iX3 electric SUV in "M Sport" guise when first deliveries start in March.

Fiat Sports a new 600 line

Fiat has revealed a Sport trim for its 600 compact SUV range to help boost its appeal for 2026.

The Sport has two-tone paint options, 18in alloys, black accents on the front grille, door handles and rear taillights and Sport badging on the front wings.

There is a redesigned dashboard with sporty black seat upholstery and logos in the headrests. It has a hybrid powertrain with a 1.2-litre three-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine mated to an electric motor with 108bhp and 143bhp outputs.

Electric model, the 600e Sport, has a 54kWh battery with an electric motor for 154bhp and does 248 miles. Thanks to 100kW DC rapid-charging, the car can be topped up from 20-80% in half an hour.

Order books open soon with prices from £28,750 for the Sport Hybrid and £29,750 for the 600e Sport.

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TWINNING FORMULA

Ferrari's new 'gateway' entry-level Amalfi will not disappoint fans, retaining its twin turbocharged V8 engine for a sharp, speedy and intuitive ride

First revealed back in 2019, the Ferrari Roma arrived as a new gateway to the Italian brand's range. But never one to be complacent, Ferrari has seen fit to update its Roma. Enter the Amalfi – we've been driving it in Portugal to see what has changed.

WHAT'S NEW?

The Roma's change comes through evolution. It's why the engine has been tweaked to make it more responsive, while a brake-by-wire system aims to make the car easier and more predictable to drive.

In many ways, user-friendliness has been thought about too. Gone are the touch-style buttons on the steering wheel, replaced by simpler physical controls. The glowing and touch-sensitive starter switch has been ditched, with the physical red starter button of the Amalfi harking back to those fitted to leagues of iconic Ferrari models, dating back to the original 360 of the late 1990s and early 2000s.

WHAT'S UNDER THE BONNET?

As before, you've got a 3.9-litre twin-turbocharged V8 engine though, with 631bhp, and it has been graced with an additional 19bhp. However, the throttle response has been sharpened thanks to a new crankshaft and redesigned turbochargers, making the Amalfi more urgent to drive. It's linked to an eight-speed dual-clutch automatic gearbox too. The brake-by-wire system helps to bring improved stopping power and a more natural pedal feel. Called ABS Evo, it's a system we've seen put to good use on the brand's 296 GTS hybrid supercar and in the Amalfi, it aims to provide a predictable braking experience.

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO DRIVE?

Look at the Amalfi's elongated bonnet and huge alloys and you'd think that this would be intimidating to drive. But once that red starter button is pressed and you're on the move, the reality is quite the opposite. In fully automatic mode, the gearbox shifts smoothly and the ride does a great job of taking out the harshness from the road. In Comfort drive mode, the Amalfi has the hallmarks of a tremendous GT car.

But that's not to say this can't still act like a "true" Ferrari. Switch into a sportier drive setting and the car sharpens with that V8 engine. In fact, the Amalfi delivers near-absurd levels of performance and far more than what anyone realistically needs.

FACTS

Ferrari Amalfi

Price: £202,459
Engine: 3.9-litre twin-turbocharged V8
Power: 631bhp
Torque: 760Nm
Max speed: 199mph
0-60mph: 3.0 seconds

One element where the Amalfi doesn't feel quite as intuitive is the steering. It is very, very quick and light, so on some occasions can lead the car to feeling a touch nervous. It's common among Ferraris, but once you're used to it you soon settle into it.

HOW DOES IT LOOK?

It's fair to say that the Roma was hardly an ugly duckling, so Ferrari didn't need to do an awful lot to the styling. However, there have been some tweaks and changes. The front end is smoother and more aerodynamic, with the grille-like design of the Roma removed entirely.

The Amalfi also now gets an electronically adjustable wing. Fully automatic, it switches between low, medium and high downforce levels depending on the car's speed or acceleration. Ferrari says it can generate up to 110kg of downforce at 155mph, in fact.

WHAT'S IT LIKE INSIDE?

The new physical steering wheel controls are a big improvement, and the Roma's compact portrait-oriented screen has now been switched out for a larger, more feature-packed landscape one. The general fit-and-finish is good, too, with the front seats providing good support. A 273-litre boot provides enough space for some weekend bags or shopping.

WHAT'S THE SPEC LIKE?

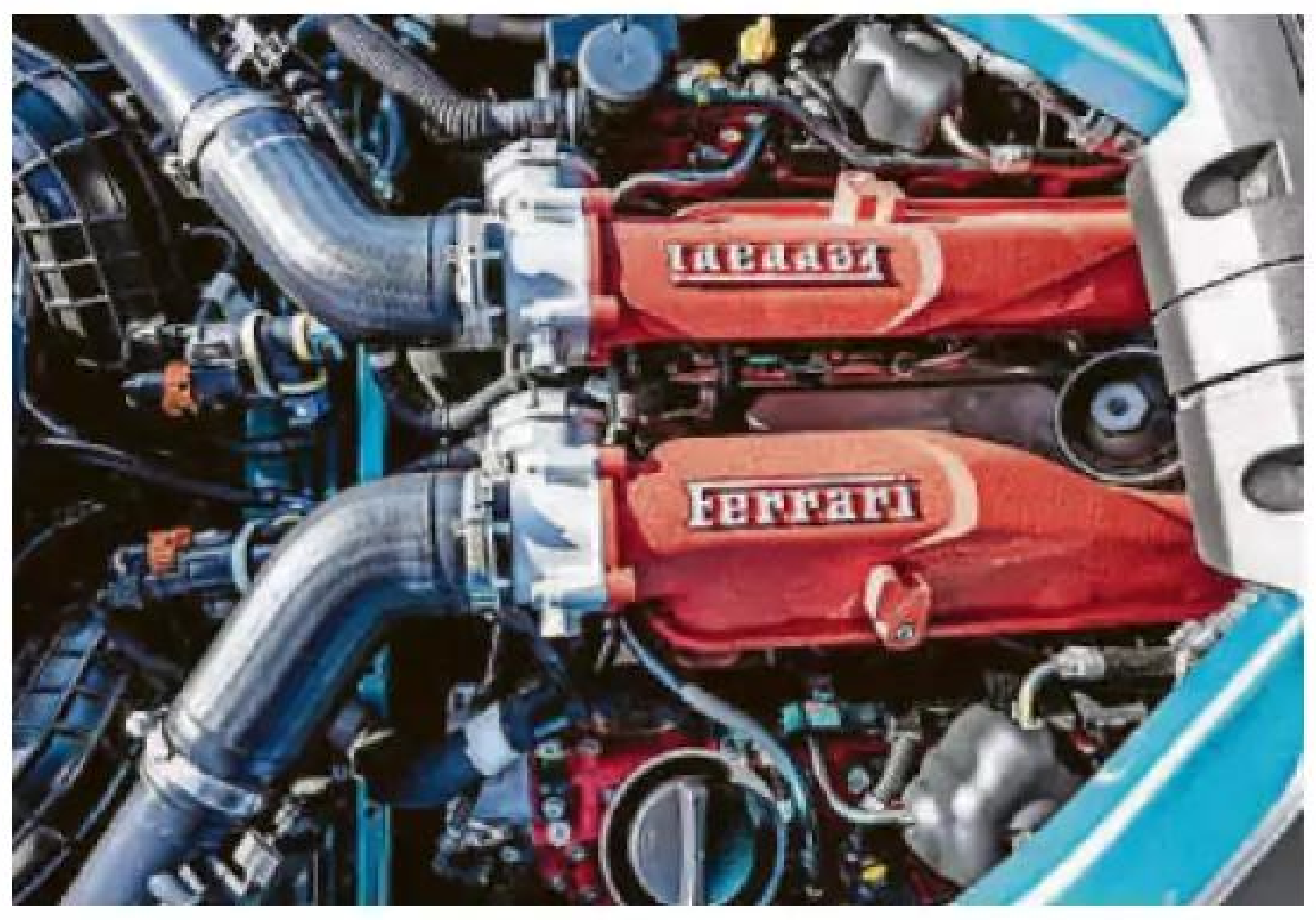
Prices start at £202,459, though you'll be able to quickly ramp that up with options. All cars get a new 16.25in customisable digital display, and the Amalfi will also be available with an optional 8.8in passenger display.

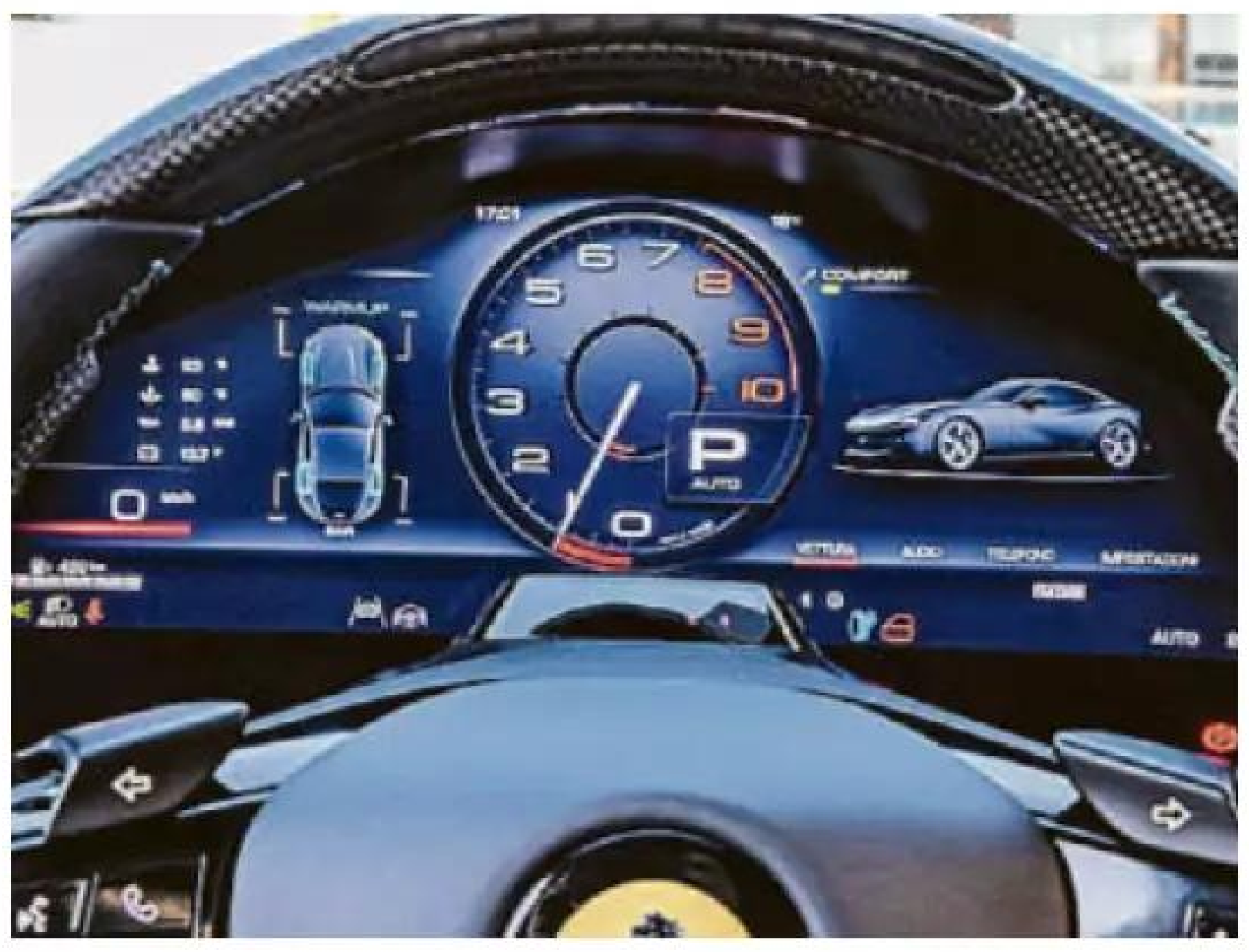
It comes with a range of assistance systems too, including adaptive cruise control, automatic emergency braking and blind-spot detection. All of these can be easily switched off via three presses of a button on the steering wheel.

VERDICT

This car feels more intuitive, which, as a gateway for the Ferrari brand it should be. And it hasn't lost any sparkle in the process.

The quick steering may take some getting used to, but the Amalfi still feels at the top of its game.





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TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*

SPAIN WITH MICHAEL PORTILLO, 5, 8PM

YES, it's your lucky night. That's assuming you were one of the thousands who swamped Channel 5 with letters and emails, begging them to make a programme in which our former Secretary of State for Defence gets to make an espadrille.

Almost as exciting, in the first episode of his new series, taking him to Barcelona, Michael seeks out a nearby street festival where, he's heard, there's a long-standing tradition in which the locals form a death-defying human tower. Can this really be true?

Well, It was certainly true when Gregg Wallace went there for Channel 5 and filmed them doing that in 2021.

LIVE WELL WITH THE DRUG-FREE DOCTOR, CHANNEL 4, 8PM

FEELING ill? Pop a pill!

That's not a new NHS slogan (although I do feel it has a certain ring to it), but a good way to sum up how easily we can grow dependent on medication.

Dr Rangan Chatterjee insists there's often a better alternative, if we're prepared to make lifestyle changes.

Here he meets three people who have done so, including a man who's improved his mental health by practising, among other things, cold-water immersion and breath work. I'm guessing that we shouldn't try those both at once.

Pick of the day

BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE RAILWAY STATIONS WITH SI KING, MORE4, 9PM

RIDING THE RAILS
Si visits stations with a story

JOY AS KING GETS BACK ON TRACKS

IMAGINE you're an alien, recently arrived from Jupiter, Mars or maybe the planet Tharg. Imagine, being new to these parts, you had yet to experience UK rail travel. You'd watch one of those railway-themed travel shows, featuring Mr Portillo or whoever (obviously you'd have bought a TV as soon as you got here), and you'd have concluded, not unreasonably, that travelling by train here is a joy. Almost idyllic, it would seem.

So the very next morning you'd nip to the nearest railway station, say at about 8.30am, buy a ticket and prepare to experience this pleasure first-hand.

And then? "Hold on!" you'd cry, within minutes of boarding. "This can't be right. This feels like hell. The TV people have conned us." Eventually you'd come to realise that TV people do that a lot, implying that an everyday experience – one that in truth can be less than tremendous fun, such as fixing your house or teaching your dog to stop eating the postman – will send your spirits soaring.

Outraged at being so misled, you'd vow never to watch a railway-themed programme again. And who'd blame you?

But actually that would be a shame, because this new one from our former Hairy Biker friend is rather wonderful.

Bear in mind the train travel part isn't its central element. The real stars are the places the trains go to and leave from. Railway stations never let you down the way actual trains do. And some of them are stunning and/or have amazing tales to tell. Hence we have two expert co-hosts, railway historian Siddy Holloway and architect Damion Burrows.

In this first episode, Siddy visits Lowestoft Station ("a great survivor"), Damion travels to Huddersfield ("stately home of railway stations"), and Si heads to York, opened in 1877 as the largest station in the world.

In all honesty, though, the nicest thing is just seeing Si back on TV. Losing his best mate hit him hard. Getting back to making shows, on whatever topic, seems so positive that I'd gladly watch any new programme he'd do.

Even Britain's Favourite Motorway Service Stations? Fine by me, provided he didn't pick Exeter, that is. If he did, we'd be having words.

BEST COMEDY

BLACK OPS, BBC1, 9.30PM

In this second series, Dom and Kay start new roles at MI5, but Dom is a little too eager to impress a senior agent and makes a risky move.

BEST DRAMA

PATIENCE, CHANNEL 4, 9PM

When a music student is found dead, autistic criminal records worker Patience Evans is on hand to help. Jessica Hynes joins the cast.

BEST FILM

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS: THE MOVIE, BBC3, 9.20PM

Patsy (Joanna Lumley) and Edina (Jennifer Saunders) escape to the south of France when Edina is suspected of killing model Kate Moss.

BEST SOAP

EMMERDALE, ITV1, 8PM

Shock ripples when Bob tells everyone about Ray and Celia's operation. Rhona lets Paddy know and he kindly tells April and Dylan it's not their fault.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS
★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD
(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Morning Live Magazine.
10.45 Rip Off Britain: Scams A community blighted by doorstep rogues charging thousands for roof repairs.
11.30 Homes Under the Hammer Property auctions. (R)
12.15pm Bargain Hunt (R)
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
2.00 Lost and Found in the Lakes Helen Skelton reunites people with possessions they'd feared were gone for ever, as she and her team search the Lake District.
2.30 Animal Park The team reports on efforts to save a precious white-backed vulture chick.
3.00 I Escaped to the Country Revisiting Pembrokeshire. (R)
3.45 Garden Rescue (R)
4.30 The Travelling Auctioneers Izzie Balmer and JJ Chalmers meet a man whose house is full of his late mum's treasures.
5.15 Pointless Quiz show, with guest co-host Judi Love.
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather

BBC Two

6.00am Lost and Found in the Lakes Lost treasures. (R)
6.30 Garden Rescue (R)
7.15 I Escaped to the Country (R)
8.00 Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Australia In Sydney. (R)
9.00 BBC News
12.15pm Politics Live
1.00 Impossible Quiz. (R)
1.45 Brainbox Challenge (R)
2.15 The Manor Reborn (R)
3.15 Hidden Treasures of the National Trust (R)
4.15 Puerto Rico: Island of Enchantment – Natural World The island's most endangered creatures. (R)
5.15 Flog It! Paul Martin presents from the Oxford Union. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games With Huge Davies, Amy Dowden, Humphrey Ker and Jamie-Lee O'Donnell.
6.30 Robson Green's Weekend Escapes Robson joins singer KT Tunstall in her home territory of Fife as they explore the beaches of her childhood near St Andrews, followed by a sea shanty workshop.

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.30 Lorraine Entertainment news.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion.
12.30pm Loose Women Debate.
1.30 ITV News; Weather
1.55 Regional News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson and his team are in Coventry helping sellers to cash in their valuables. A silver claret jug by a famous maker causes plenty of excitement in the Dealers den.
3.00 Time Is Money Sara Davies hosts the quiz in which contestants are given their prize money before they have answered a question.
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Deal or No Deal Simi opens the money filled red boxes.
5.00 The Chase Emma, John, Mel and Brian take part.
6.00 Regional News; Weather
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather

Channel 4

6.25am Cheers Triple bill. (R)
7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond Triple bill of the sitcom. (R)
9.10 Frasier Four episodes. (R)
11.10 American Pickers (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News
12.10 Car S.O.S A 1973 saloon. (R)
1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
2.10 Countdown With Debbie McGee in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 A Place in the Sun A new permanent home in Almeria (R)
4.00 A New Life in the Sun Plumbing problems plague the renovations of Nigel and Fede's ex-guesthouse in Spain, while in France, Emily and Dave try to keep the tills ringing at their new pub.
5.00 Junior Bake Off The youngsters create meringues in the Technical challenge. For the Showstopper, the bakers produce brownies illustrating the best day of their lives.
6.00 A Place in the Sun Fiona's looking for a holiday home in the French countryside of Limousin, that one day she can move to permanently.

5

6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Discussion.
11.30 Storm & Alexis
12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.00 Vanessa Discussion show, presented by Vanessa Feltz.
3.00 The Madame Blanc Mysteries Albert Gilbert is left unconscious by robbers when a painting is stolen from his home and Caron calls upon Jean for her expertise in the investigation of the theft. (R)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Andy and fiancee Becky return to Benidorm to find the perfect wedding spot, and in Malaga, ex-teacher Ian hosts a magical mystery tour for B&B guests.
5.00 5 News at 5
6.00 Secrets of the Royal Palaces Tales of entertaining at royal residences, with the Buckingham Palace party that almost went up in flames and the secrets for Kensington Palace's unwelcome guests. (R) Followed by 5 News Update

8pm, THE TRAITORS: Claudia Winkleman

9pm, ROB AND RYLAN'S…: Rylan Clark and Rob Rinder

3pm, TIME IS MONEY: Sara Davies

8pm, LIVE WELL WITH…: Dr Rangan Chatterjee

9pm, THE TRIAL OF MICHAEL JACKSON: Michael Jackson

7
8
9
10
11
12 MIDNIGHT

7.00 The One Show Presented by Angellica Bell and JB Gill.
7.30 EastEnders Priya, Vinny and Nugget go searching for Ravi and Linda hears some home truths about her past behaviour. Honey's mistake leads to an opportunity.
8.00 The Traitors Following a sleepless night, the players arrive at breakfast eager to share their thoughts. With a mission focused on protection from murder, true intentions are laid bare. Claudia Winkleman presents..
9.05 The Traitors: Uncloaked Ed Gamble discusses the latest episode with series three Faithful Fozia and Celebrity Faithful Mark Bonnar.
9.30 *NEW* **Black Ops** Dom and Kay find their wits and friendship tested to the limits.
10.00 BBC News at Ten A fresh perspective on the major stories of the day, featuring national and international news, with reports.
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.40 *FILM* **The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (2013, 12) Katniss Everdeen's victory in a televised death match makes her a focus for revolution against the totalitarian nation she lives in. The rulers of the regime plot to crush dissent with a new series of games, in which past champions battle it out. Sci-fi adventure sequel based on the second book in Suzanne Collins' trilogy of novels, starring Jennifer Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth, Donald Sutherland and Philip Seymour Hoffman. ★★★★
12.55am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.00-6.00am BBC News

7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip Gareth Malone and YolanDa Brown visit Edinburgh and Fife. This duo is gunning around town in a 1960s motor, each with £400 to buy antiques that will hopefully ring up some profits at auction. (R)
8.00 Earth's Great Rivers II Follow the journey of the Zambezi – Africa's wildest river. It floods across endless plains, fuelling the migration of 30,000 wildebeest, turning villages into islands accessible only by boat. (R)
9.00 Rob and Rylan's Grand Tour Rob Rinder and Rylan Clark set off on the original package holiday, the Grand Tour, which was an odyssey designed to turn young Brits into civilised, educated gentlemen. Their first stop is Venice. (R)
10.00 *NEW* **What We Do in the Shadows** Nandor and his fanged kin welcome a new vampire roommate. Comedy, starring Matt Berry.
10.25 Raising Sancho: Natural World A giant otter cub. (R)
10.30 Newsnight; Weather
11.00 Lucy Worsley's Victorian Murder Club The historian investigates the case of a Victorian serial killer the Thames Torso Murderer, who was operating at the same time as Jack the Ripper and was also never caught. (R)
12.00m't *FILM* Tar (2022, 15) When accusations surface about conductor Lydia Tar and a graduate of her academy, every aspect of the tutor's life comes under scrutiny. Drama, with Cate Blanchett. ★★★ **2.35** Sign Zone: Robson Green's Weekend Escapes (R) **3.05-6.00am** This Is BBC Two

7.30 Millionaire Hot Seat Jeremy Clarkson hosts the quiz where each episode sees hopefuls compete for a one-million-pound prize – however, only one player can take their place in the Hot Seat to work their way up the Money Ladder.
8.00 Emmerdale There is a betrayal, Paddy receives bad news and Moira is in shock.
8.30 Coronation Street Drama from the cobbles. The police investigation progresses, with one resident finding themselves under arrest.
9.00 Grantchester The death of a student plunges Geordie and Alphy into a world of academic adversaries where two research groups are racing to prove and publish their newest theses. Alphy also encounters a complication in his life.
10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.45 The Essex Millionaire Murders A look at the investigation into the murders of Carol and Stephen Baxter, a wealthy couple in their 60s who were found dead by their daughter on Easter Sunday in 2023 in Essex. (R)
11.35 Millionaire Hot Seat Six new contestants face Jeremy Clarkson as they race against the clock, answering questions, hoping to climb the Money Ladder. (R)
12.00m't Shop on TV **3.00** Riches. Eager to remove Nina from the business, Claudia goes out of her comfort zone in a bid for shareholder votes. The success of Face of Flair exposes problems with the business. (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV. Daily escape. **5.05-6.00am** Deal or No Deal (R)

7.00 Channel 4 News A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.
8.00 Live Well with the Drug-Free Doctor Dr Rangan Chatterjee examines the nation's dependence on long-term prescribed medication to see if alternative routes by changing their lifestyle can benefit us.
9.00 Patience A music student is found dead in a rehearsal room. When her professor also dies, Frankie and Patience are thrust into an unharmonious world of classical music. Drama, starring Ella Maisy Purvis and Jessica Hynes.
10.00 24 Hours in A&E Double bill. Sara, 46, is rushed in after a car crash with head and chest injuries, and 54 year-old Simon comes in after falling off his bike. As his condition deteriorates, Simon looks back on his life and the things he wishes he had done differently. Sixteen year-old James comes in with a severed finger; an 18-year-old is rushed in after suffering a cardiac arrest during a football game and 30-year-old Tom has a severe ankle injury after a head-on traffic collision. (R)
12.05am The Murder of Laci Peterson. Documentary. **12.55** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) **1.45** The Great Pottery Throw Down (R) **3.05** Know Your S**t: Inside Our Guts (R) **4.00** Couples Come Dine with Me (R) **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (R) **5.45-6.25am** Countdown (R)

7.00 The 1970s Diet: Could It Work For You? Josie Gibson joins a disco-inspired dance class that soared in popularity across the decade, and enjoys half a fish-and-chip supper that represents the 1970s portion size; 5 News Update
8.00 *NEW* **Spain with Michael Portillo** The presenter explores little-known parts of Spain, beginning with Barcelona. He begins at Casa Vicens in Gracia, Gaudi's colourful first commission, now open to visitors.
9.00 The Trial of Michael Jackson In February 2003, Martin Bashir's documentary Living with Michael Jackson aired in the UK. The star was interviewed next to a 13-year-old boy, Gavin, and admitted they sometimes shared a bed. This documentary examines the trial of Michael Jackson that took place in Santa Barbara county in California and gripped the world.
10.35 *FILM* **The Fugitive** (1993, 15) A doctor is convicted of his wife's murder and forced to go on the run to prove his innocence – but his efforts to find the mysterious one-armed man he believes is the real killer are hampered by a tenacious US marshal. Thriller, starring Harrison Ford, an Oscar-winning Tommy Lee Jones and Sela Ward. ★★★★
1.05am PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Your Dream Kitchen for Less. Mark Millar helps couples in south Wales and Yorkshire. (R) **3.50** Friends (R) **4.35** The Wonderful World of Chocolate (R) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom (R) **5.45-6.00am** Milo (R)

ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.30** Olivia and Alex: Parenthood **9.25** The Only Way Is Essex **10.25** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.20** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.15pm** Dinner Date **1.15** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.15** The Only Way Is Essex **3.10** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.10** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills

6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase With Lesley Garrett, Jools Holland and Adil Ray.

7.00 Deal or No Deal Gameshow.

8.00 The Real Housewives of Orange County Katie and Heather come head-to-head over some information.

9.00 TikTok: Murder Gone Viral The killing of 16-year-old Brianna Ghey.

10.00 Family Guy Animated triple bill.

11.25 American Dad! Double bill.

12.25am Bob's Burgers **1.25** Olivia Attwood's Bad Boyfriends **2.25** Unwind with ITV **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable **3.00** Beat the Chasers **4.00** Riddiculous **5.00** Deal or No Deal. With Stephen Mulhern.

6.00 Lingo Triple bill. Rob and Jane, Stacey and Phil, and Kim and Gary take part; with Sean and Kyle, Harv and Jas, and Sharon and Becky; with contestants from the West Midlands, Rickmansworth, London and Bradford. Hosted by Adil Ray.

9.00 Alan Carr's Epic Gameshow The comedian hosts an updated version of Name That Tune, with four contestants trying to identify songs in the shortest time possible and have a chance at winning the £25,000 jackpot. Singer Sophie Ellis-Bextor makes a guest appearance at the piano for the Bid-a-Note round, where contestants go head to head to name the tune in as few notes as possible.

10.00 Tipping Point Triple bill.

12.50am Tenable **1.45** Unwind with ITV **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Catch Up The news.

7.05 SpongeBob SquarePants

7.30 FILM **Lara Croft: Tomb Raider** (2001, 15) Adventure, with Angelina Jolie and Daniel Craig. ★★★

9.05 RuPaul's Drag Race UK vs the World RuPaul introduces nine international queens to the show.

9.20 FILM **Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie** (2016, 15) Patsy and Edina find themselves vilified by the entire nation and have to flee the country. Comedy, starring Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley. ★★★

10.50 RuPaul's Drag Race UK vs the World RuPaul introduces the global glamazons to each other and sets them their first challenge – to stage a royal command performance.

12.05am RuPaul's Drag Race UK vs the World **1.20** Smoggie Queens: five episodes **3.50-3.55am** Corey Baker's Dance Race

BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm Yorkshire Wolds Way with Paul Rose Part one of two. Exploring one of Britain's least well-known walking trails.

7.30 Pubs, Ponds and Power: The Story of the Village Ben Robinson explores the history of Lavenham.

8.00 FILM **The Guns of Navarone** (1961, PG) Oscar-winning Second World War drama, based on Alistair MacLean's novel, starring Gregory Peck and David Niven. ★★★★

10.30 FILM **The Eagle Has Landed** (1976, 15) Second World War adventure, adapted from Jack Higgins' novel, starring Michael Caine and Donald Sutherland. ★★★

12.40am Culloden **1.50** Britain's Lost Waterlands: Escape to Swallows and Amazons Country **2.50** Yorkshire Wolds Way with Paul Rose **3.20-3.50am** Pubs, Ponds and Power: The Story of the Village

GB News FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Stephen and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney. Updates.

6.00 Dewbs & Co Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 Farage An action-packed hour of topical discussion and debate.

8.00 Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation Join Jacob for his unique and unmissable take on the news.

9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay Join Patrick for two hours of spirited debate and news making interviews.

11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition All the major stories making the front pages and full coverage of all the breaking news at home and abroad with Patrick Christys.

12.00m't The Late Show Live **2.00** Farage Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** James May: The Christmas Reassembler **8.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **9.00** Guy Martin's Great Escape **11.00** Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes **12.00noon** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **2.00** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British

6.00 Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes The chef visits Sardinia.

7.00 Would I Lie to You? Panel show.

7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games

9.00 QI XL Sandi Toksvig looks at vets.

10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Miles Jupp hosts an extended episode of the current affairs quiz.

11.00 Taskmaster Greg Davies challenges Hugh Dennis to wield a blade.

12.00m't Mock the Week. Quiz show. **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **2.00** Australian Ninja Warrior **3.20** Meet the Richardsons **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.25** At Home with the Braithwaites **8.20** Doctors **9.35** Classic Holby City **10.35** Classic Casualty **11.45** The Bill **12.50pm** Classic EastEnders **2.05** All Creatures Great and Small **3.10** Howards' Way **4.20** Bergerac **5.20** One Foot in the Grave

6.00 To the Manor Born DeVere neglects to invite Audrey to the Hunt Ball.

6.40 Last of the Summer Wine Double bill.

8.00 Kingdom Life and work must go on for solicitor Peter Kingdom, despite the disappearance of his business partner Simon. Drama, starring Stephen Fry.

9.00 Harry Wild Harry and Fergus investigate the murder of a gym owner.

10.00 New Tricks Sandra and the team try to unmask an assassin. Kerry Fox stars.

11.20 Waking the Dead Part two of two. The team uncovers a secret.

12.40am Hotel Portofino **1.50** One Foot in the Grave **2.35** To the Manor Born **3.05** Harry Wild **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4 FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Modern Family **6.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Junior Bake Off **8.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** The Simpsons **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** The Simpsons: four episodes **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

6.00 The Simpsons Four episodes.

8.00 Billion Pound Cruise The Symphony of the Seas sails into port, where 6,680 guests get off and on the ship. As always, it will be a mammoth task for the crew.

9.00 Gogglebox Double bill.

11.05 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment Having dipped their toes in sex parties before, couple Al and Jasmine seek to find out whether opening up their relationship can spice up their sex lives.

12.05am Naked Attraction's Best Naughty Bits **1.05** Billion Pound Cruise **2.10** Gogglebox **3.55** The Goldbergs **4.45-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

More4 FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.00** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed: five episodes **4.50** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away **5.55** Car S.O.S

6.55 Car S.O.S Fuzz and Tim take on one of the most divisive British sports cars ever made – a Triumph TR7.

7.55 The Dog House An 11-year-old is thrilled to meet his dream dog – Gizmo the pug. However, staff are worried his excitement will send Gizmo into a panic.

9.00 NEW **Britain's Favourite Railway Stations with Si King** The presenter explores the history of railway stations, discovering how heritage, technology, culture and community converge. The first episode features York station.

10.00 Secrets of Flying Scotsman

12.10am Emergency Helicopter Medics **1.15** 24 Hours in A&E **2.20** Britain's Favourite Railway Stations with Si King **3.25-3.55am** Food Unwrapped

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.30-7.00** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.30** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.40** Confessions of a Steroid Gang **11.10** FILM The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013, 12) ★★★★ **1.25-6.00am** BBC News

WALES As BBC2 except: 7.00pm Scrum V: The Warm Up **7.30** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure **8.00-9.00pm** Celebrity Antiques Road Trip

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Meridian; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Meridian. The latest headlines; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Meridian; Weather

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Central; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Central. The latest headlines; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Central; Weather

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Wales at Six Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather

WEST As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Anglia **6.00-6.30** ITV News Anglia; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Anglia

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country

S4C 6.00am Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo **12.30** Heno **1.00** Dan Do **1.15** Y Deis **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion **3.05** Geraint Thomas: y Daith **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Gwlad y Basg: Gwilym Bowen Rhys **6.30** Clwb Rygbi: Super Rygbi Cymru. Action from the latest matches, including Llandovery v Ebbw Vale, Newport v Camrmarthen Quins and Swansea v RGC. **6.57** Newyddion **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. Dani and Gwern are shocked to see Garry back in Cwmderi, while Mathew is cold with Sion. **8.25** Rownd a Rownd. Ioan decides to be proactive in trying to gain Mair's attention. **8.55** Newyddion **9.00** Cymry ar Gynfas **9.30** Cynefin **10.30** Teth **10.50** Cysgu O Gwmpas **11.20-11.50pm** Cymru ar Gyffuriau

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am LIVE **Tennis** The WTA and ATP Tours, including the United Cup Tennis tournament, WTA Brisbane Open, WTA Auckland Open, ATP Brisbane Open, and ATP Hong Kong Open.
1.00pm Lunchtime Live **2.00** Sports Desk
3.30 LIVE **SA20** Joburg Super Kings v Paarl Royals. At Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg. Both these teams reached the play-offs last year, but neither managed to qualify for the final, both losing out to Sunrisers Eastern Cape.
7.00 LIVE **Premier League** Arsenal v Liverpool (kick-off 8.00pm). From Emirates Stadium.
11.00 A League of Their Own. With guests Laura Kenny, Big Zuu and Tony Bellew.
12.00m't Sky Sports News. Latest headlines.
1.00-6.00am LIVE **Tennis** The WTA and ATP Tours, including the United Cup Tennis tournament.

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am Big Bash League **7.00** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **7.10** Big Bash League
8.10 LIVE **Big Bash League** Melbourne Stars v Sydney Sixers. Coverage of the T20 match at Melbourne Cricket Ground. Glenn Maxwell was instrumental in the Stars' 16-run victory when the teams met here last season, as his knock of 58 not out from 32 balls helped steer his side to 156/5, and he then took two catches as the Sixers were limited to 140/9 from their 20 overs.
11.30 Best of England v South Africa **11.45** Best of ICC WT20 **12.00noon** SA20 **2.00** Big Bash League **3.00** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **3.10** Best of Sky Cricket
3.20 LIVE **SA20 Joburg** Super Kings v Paarl Royals. Coverage of the match at Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg.
7.00 Big Bash League **8.00** SA20 **9.00** SA20 **10.00** SA20 **11.00** Big Bash League
2.20am Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **2.30** Best of England v South Africa **2.45** Best of ICC WT20 **3.00-6.00am** SA20

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am EFL **7.00** EFL Highlights **9.00** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** SPFL Greatest Games
12.00noon EFL Cup Highlights **1.00** 150 Years of the Edinburgh Derby **2.00** EFL League One Goals **2.30** EFL Cup Highlights **3.00** EFL Highlights **4.00** SPFL Highlights **4.15** EFL Highlights **4.30** EFL Cup Highlights **5.00** EFL Highlights **6.00** EFL Cup Highlights **6.30** Bundesliga Weekly **7.00** EFL Highlights **7.15** EFL Highlights **7.30** EFL Highlights **7.45** EFL Highlights **8.00** EFL Highlights **8.15** SPFL Highlights **8.30** EFL League One Goals **9.00** Bundesliga Weekly **9.30** EFL Cup Highlights **10.00** EFL Cup Highlights **10.30** EFL Highlights **10.45** EFL Highlights **11.00** EFL Greatest Games
12.00m't Craig Brown: My Scotland. The former Scotland manager reflects on his time with the national side. **12.30** Best Scottish Premiership Goals 2024/25 **1.00** SPFL: Edinburgh Derby Best Goals **1.30** SPFL Highlights **5.00-6.00am** SPFL Special: Celtic's Invincibles

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am DP World Tour Golf **5.30pm** TGL
7.30 PGA Tour Golf. The 2025 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. Another chance to see the fourth and final day of the tournament from Pebble Beach Golf Links in California.
1.00am PGA Tour Golf. The 2025 Valspar Championship. Action from the tournament at the Innisbrook Resort in Palm Harbour. **2.00** The Open – Official Films **3.00** Nick Dougherty's Tee Time Tips **4.00** Chronicles of a Champion Golfer **5.00** The Best of The Hero Masterclass **5.30-6.00am** Best of the Shot Centre

TNT SPORTS 1

7.30am TNT Sports Reload **8.00** Classic Premier League **10.00** The Ashes **11.00** Classic Premier League **12.00noon** Men's Alpine Skiing World Cup. Run one from Madonna di Campiglio, Italy.
1.00 LIVE **Biathlon World Cup** The men's sprint in the latest meeting of the season, held in Oberhof.
2.30 Serie A. Parma v Inter Milan. **3.30** TNT Sports Reload **3.45** Classic Premier League **4.45** Premier League Stories **5.15** Premier League – The Big Interview **5.45** Spanish Super Cup
6.45 LIVE **Spanish Super Cup** Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid (kick-off 7.00pm). Coverage of the semi-final match at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
9.00 Serie A **10.00** Serie A **11.00** Premier League – The Big Interview **11.30** Hard Knocks: In Season with the NFC East **12.30am** TNT Sports Reload **1.00** Spanish Super Cup **2.00** The Gallagher PREM – The Wrap Up **2.15** Ally's Social Club **3.00** UEFA Champions League – Stories of the Finals **4.00-6.00am** Serie A

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am The Gallagher PREM **11.00** The Gallagher PREM – The Wrap Up **11.15** TNT Sports Reload **11.30** Ultimate Pool. Action from Group One of the Women's Champions League.
1.00pm Fishing: On the Bank **2.00** The Ashes. Australia v England. Action from day five of the series-concluding Fifth Test, held at Sydney Cricket Ground. **3.00** International T20 Cricket Highlights. New Zealand v West Indies. **7.00** Fishing: On the Bank **8.00** Ultimate Pool **9.30** Premier League Legends **10.00** The Emirates FA Cup **11.00pm-6.00am** The Emirates FA Cup

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.30** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.10** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.15** Heartbeat **1.20pm** Foyle's War **3.30** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Vera **10.00** Foyle's War **11.55** Trial & Retribution **2.00-2.30am** Unwind with ITV

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.05** Magnum, PI **9.05** Kojak **10.10** Boon **11.20** The Professionals **12.20pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.35** Magnum, PI **2.40** Kojak **3.50** Boon **4.55** The Professionals **5.55** Minder **7.00** American Pickers **8.00** Ice Road Truckers **9.00** FILM First Blood (1982/15) Action thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone. ★★★ **11.05** Ligue 1 Highlights **11.35** Berlin Station **12.35am** The Professionals **1.35** Minder **2.30** Auto Mundial **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Unwind with ITV

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Cats and Dogs at War **10.00** 22 Kids & Counting **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **8.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. Cherie arrives at the practice with a painfully swollen hand. **9.00** A&E After Dark **10.00** Ambulance: Code Red **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00m't** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **1.00** 999: Criminals Caught on Camera **2.00** The Good Wife **3.35-4.00am** Car Pound Cops

REALLY Freeview 17

6.00am Fantasy Homes by the Sea **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** Celebrity Yorkshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **5.00** A Place in the Sun **6.00** Salvage Hunters **8.00** Antiques Road Trip **9.00** Ghost Adventures. Zak Bagans arrives in Pendleton, Oregon. **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Entertainment News on 5 **9.15** Traffic Cops **10.15** Police Interceptors **12.20pm** FILM Flame of the Barbary Coast (1945/U) ★★★ **2.15** FILM Decision at Sundown (1957/U) ★★ **4.00** The Motorway **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **9.00** NEW Mud Mountain Haulers. Craig and his crew tackle Gollen, the steepest block they've seen, and Brent battles repairs and snowfall while clearing a ski trail. **10.00** Outback Truckers **11.00** Banged Up Abroad **12.05am** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.05** Ice Road Truckers **2.05-4.00am** Trucking Hell

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am Classic FM Live: Classical Anthems **8.00** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Jeff Goldblum **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Stories from the National Gallery **3.00** Battle of the Irish Dancers **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Forest Whitaker **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected **7.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **8.00** Discovering: Sissy Spacek **9.00** FILM Sabrina (1954/U) Romantic comedy, with Audrey Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart. ★★★★★ **11.10** The Directors **12.10am** FILM Midnight Movies: From the Margin to the Mainstream (2005/15) ★★★ **2.05** A Play in a Day **3.05** Dickens in Italy with David Harewood **4.05** Inside Art: Bristol Street Art at M Shed **5.00-6.00am** The Art of Architecture

Live Premier League
Sky Sports Main Event, 7pm
The pick of this week's top-flight games is the clash between Arsenal and Liverpool at the Emirates. Can Jurrien Timber (left) and the Gunners keep the defending champions at bay?

U&GOLD

7.05am The Green Green Grass **7.45** Ever Decreasing Circles **8.20** The Green Green Grass **9.00** Dad's Army **9.40** Are You Being Served? **10.15** Open All Hours **10.55** Keeping Up Appearances **11.35** Last of the Summer Wine **12.55pm** The Green Green Grass **1.30** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.10** Dad's Army **2.50** Are You Being Served? **3.30** Open All Hours **4.05** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.40** Last of the Summer Wine **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Open All Hours **7.20** Dad's Army **8.00** The Good Life **9.55** Not Going Out **10.30** The Good Life **12.30am** Not Going Out **1.05** The Good Life **3.00-4.00am** Keeping Up Appearances

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great British Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **10.00** Rise of the Nazis **11.00** True Evil: The Making of a Nazi **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Rise of the Nazis **5.00** True Evil: The Making of a Nazi **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash **9.00** Flipping Bangers **10.00** Bangers & Cash **11.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **1.00am** Abandoned Engineering **2.00-3.00am** Rise of the Nazis

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise **9.00** Allegiance **10.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00-4.00am** Murdoch Mysteries

SKY MAX

6.00am Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** SEAL Team **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00** SEAL Team **6.05** Stargate SG-1 **8.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **9.00** Evil **11.00** Fear the Walking Dead **12.00m't** Mr Bigstuff **1.00** The Force: Manchester **2.00** Brit Cops: Frontline Crime UK **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Fish Town **7.00** The Guest Wing **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.10** The Sopranos **12.20pm** Game of Thrones **2.30** The Wire **4.40** Westworld **5.45** Deadwood. Alma tries to get to the bottom of her husband's death. **6.50** Game of Thrones **9.00** House of the Dragon **11.30** Deadwood **12.40am** All Her Fault **2.40** Game of Thrones **5.00-6.00am** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets

SKY WITNESS

6.00am UK Border Force **7.00** Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Stop, Search, Seize **10.00** Nothing to Declare UK **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **2.00** Send in the Dogs **3.00** Caught on Dashcam **4.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **9.00** The Equalizer **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **11.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **1.00** FBI **2.00** Law & Order: Organized Crime **3.00** Brit Cops: Frontline Crime UK **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize **5.00-6.00am** Road Wars

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.15** Sex and the City **11.25** Entourage **12.30pm** Will & Grace **1.30** Sex and the City **2.50** Ballers **4.00** And Just Like That **4.45** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** Josh Widdicombe: Bit Much… At the London Palladium. **10.15** And Just Like That **11.00** Community **12.00m't** Entourage **1.05** Ballers **2.25** Curb Your Enthusiasm **3.40-5.00am** Silicon Valley

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Junkyard Empire **9.00** Gold Rush **11.00** Bitchin' Rides: Road to the Ridler **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How Do They Do It? **5.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **7.00** Wheeler Dealers World Tour **9.00** Marooned with Ed Stafford **10.00** In the Eye of the Storm **11.00** Expedition Unknown **12.00m't** Deadliest Catch **1.00** Marooned with Ed Stafford **2.00** In the Eye of the Storm **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Megafactories **9.00** Air Crash Investigation: Special Report **10.00** Seconds from Disaster **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** World War II: The Apocalypse **1.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Hitler's Last Stand **4.00** Hitler's Killer Warships: Drain the Oceans **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Hitler's Secret Underground Factory **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Toronto Airport Uncovered **9.00** Hindenburg: The New Evidence **10.00** Top Guns: The Next Generation **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Alaska: The Next Generation **1.00** To Catch a Smuggler **2.30** Lords of War **3.20** Food Factory **4.10-5.00am** Prairie Dog Dynasty

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Nat and Vicky **3.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems with Matt and Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Going Home with Katie and Jerry **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Rave-Up with Arielle Free **10.00** BBC Introducing on Radio 1 Dance with Jaguar **11.00** Radio 1's Residency **1.00am** Danny Howard's Club Mix **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Radio 1's Workout Anthems **5.00-6.58am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am The Mark Goodier Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Tina Daheley **2.00** Trevor Nelson **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Edith Bowman's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Edith Bowman **9.00** The Country Show with Bob Harris **10.00** The Good Groove with Melvin Odoom **12.00m't** OJ Borg **3.00** Dance Sounds of the 90s with Vernon Kay **4.00-6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Copland **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: Instrumental **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

CHOICE
Drama: The Goblin King And Me
Radio 4, 2.15pm
Frankie Treadaway, Jon Culshaw, Susan Jameson and James Bolam star in Paul Magrs' story about a real-life encounter with David Bowie. Bullied kid Daniel wins a competition to go to a screening of film Labyrinth. But when the trip to London goes wrong, Daniel's journey becomes his own fantasy quest.

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** More or Less: The Stats of the Nation **9.30** Multitrack: Lost and Found – The Methodists **9.45** Strong Message Here **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** This Cultural Life **11.45** Book of the Week: Overwhelmed **12.00noon** News **12.04** The Bottom Line **12.30** Sliced Bread **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Human Intelligence **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: The Goblin King and Me **3.00** Ramblings **3.27** Radio 4 Appeal **3.30** Word of Mouth **4.00** Rethink **4.30** BBC Inside Science **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** What's the Story, Ashley Storrie? **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** Multitrack: The Alcoholic's Tarot **8.15** The Media Show **9.00** Loose Ends **9.45** Strong Message Here **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Wedding Suit **11.00** Radical with Amol Rajan **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Book of the Week: Overwhelmed **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.00** News Summary **5.04** Yesterday in Parliament **5.32** Weather **5.34** Shipping **5.43** Prayer **5.45-6.00am** Farming

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **10.00** Qasa Alom **1.00am** Laura McGhie **5.00-6.00am** Wake Up to Money

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am Radio Wales News **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.31** Country Focus **7.00** Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **11.59** The Phone In **2.00pm** Behnaz Akhgar **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** Kiri's Comedy Club **7.00** Aleighcia Scott **10.00** Eleri Sion **12.00m't** Relax with Radio Wales **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Classic FM Breakfast **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings with Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Breakfast

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** Danielle Perry **10.00** Jay Lawrence **1.00-6.00am** Dan Noble

Movies

FILM4

11.00am Broken Arrow (1950/PG) Western, with James Stewart and Jeff Chandler. ★★★★
12.50pm D-Day the Sixth of June (1956/PG) Second World War drama, starring Robert Taylor and Richard Todd. ★★★★
3.00 The Spoilers (1955/12) Western, starring Anne Baxter and Jeff Chandler. ★★
4.40 Jubal (1956/PG) Western, starring Glenn Ford and Ernest Borgnine. ★★★★
6.45 Instant Family (2018/12) Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne. ★★★★
9.00 The Frighteners (1996/15) Comedy horror, starring Michael J Fox. ★★★★
11.15 Darkman (1990/18) Thriller, starring Liam Neeson and Colin Friels. ★★★★
1.05-3.25am Earwig (2021/15) Fantasy drama, with Paul Hilton and Alex Lawther. ★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

7.10am The Phoenician Scheme (2025/15) Comedy, starring Benicio Del Toro. ★★★★
9.00 A Minecraft Movie (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Jason Momoa. ★★★★
10.45 Friendship (2024/15) Comedy, starring Paul Rudd and Kate Mara. ★★★★
12.30pm 28 Years Later (2025/15) See 8.00pm. ★★★★
2.30 All the Devils Are Here (2025/15) See 12.50am. ★★★
4.05 Safe House (2025/15) Thriller, starring Holt McCallany and Hannah John-Kamen. ★★★
5.40 Sinners (2025/15) Thriller, starring Michael B Jordan and Michael B Jordan. ★★★★
8.00 28 Years Later (2025/15) Danny Boyle's horror thriller, starring Jodie Comer. ★★★★
10.00 Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning (2025/12) Action thriller, starring Tom Cruise and Hayley Atwell. ★★★★
12.50am All the Devils Are Here (2025/15) Thriller, starring Eddie Marsan. ★★★
2.30 Safe House (2025/15) See 4.05pm. ★★★
4.15 Sky Cinema Preview-Jan 2026
5.15-7.15am The Wedding Banquet (2025/15) Comedy, starring Bowen Yang. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

4.35pm Poison (2024/PG) Drama, starring Tim Roth and Trine Dyrholm. ★★★
6.15 The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (2008/12) Drama, with David Thewlis. ★★★★
8.00 Little Women (1994/U) Drama, starring Winona Ryder and Susan Sarandon. ★★★★
10.00 The Holiday (2006/12) Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet. ★★★★
12.20am The Damned United (2009/15) Drama, starring Michael Sheen. ★★★★
2.00 Paper Moon (1973/PG) Drama, starring Ryan O'Neal and Tatum O'Neal. ★★★★
3.55-6.15am American Sniper (2014/15) Drama, starring Bradley Cooper. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

4.20pm The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water (2015/U) Animated comedy, featuring the voice of Tom Kenny. ★★★★
6.00 Pokemon: Detective Pikachu (2019/PG) Adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds. ★★★★
7.50 IF (2024/U) Fantasy adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds and Cailey Fleming. ★★★★
9.40 The Tiger Rising (2022/PG) Family drama, starring Dennis Quaid. ★★★
11.30 The Next Karate Kid (1994/PG) Martial arts adventure sequel, with Pat Morita. ★★★
1.25am Robin and the Hoods (2024/PG) Comedy, starring Naomie Harris. ★★★
3.15 Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009/PG) Comedy, with Kevin James and Keir O'Donnell. ★★★
4.55-6.15am Friend or Foe (1982/U) Family drama, starring John Bardon. ★★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

4.30pm Doctor in Love (1960/PG) Medical comedy, starring Michael Craig. ★★
6.55 The Brothers Conflict erupts.
8.30 That's My Boy Classic comedy.
9.05 The Wheeltappers and Shunters Social Club With Keeley Ford, The Settlers, Bert Weedon, Jackie Trent and Tony Hatch.
9.55 Night of the Big Heat (1967/15) Sci-fi adventure, starring Peter Cushing. ★★★
11.45 Brides in the Bath Serial killer drama.
1.50am Thunder in the City (1937/PG) Crime comedy, starring Edward G Robinson. ★★★
3.30 Crosstrap (1962/PG) Crime drama, with Laurence Payne and Jill Adams. ★★★
5.00-6.00am Burke's Law Detective series.

GREAT! MYSTERY

4.00pm Diagnosis Murder
5.00 Murder, She Wrote
6.00 Sue Thomas: FBEye
7.00 Castle A man is strangled with a bra.
8.00 Unforgettable Crime drama.
9.00 An Emma Fielding Mystery: Site Unseen (2017/PG) Whodunit, starring Courtney Thorne-Smith and James Tupper. ★★★
10.55 Lost Letter Mysteries: Signed Sealed Delivered (2013/PG) Mystery, starring Eric Mabius and Kristin Booth. ★★★
12.50am Dying for a Baby (2019/PG) Thriller, starring Christa B Allen. ★★★
2.30 Deadly Sibling Rivalry (2011/PG) Thriller, starring Charisma Carpenter. ★★★
4.05-6.00am Sue Thomas: FBEye

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Arvia Grand Atrium

Arvia Conservatory Mini Suite

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Seville, Spain

Day 6 **Barcelona, Spain**

Day 7 **La Seyne-Sur-Mer (for Toulon), France**

Day 8 **La Spezia (for Florence/Pisa), Italy**
Tucked into the Ligurian coastline between Genoa and Pisa is the pretty town of La Spezia - one of Italy's most important harbours, and the gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage Site called Cinque Terre

Day 9 **Civitavecchia (for Rome), Italy**

Day 11 **Alicante, Spain**

Day 15 **Arrive in Southampton**

Itinerary is based on 12th April 2026 departure. Days not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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Letters

Edited by GREG MORGAN

The Daily Express, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP
Email: expressletters@express.co.uk (include your full name, address and telephone number)
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PM lining up Brussels job for when he gets the boot

I'VE sussed out what our excuse for a Prime Minister is up to. He knows that he is on borrowed time so he is cosying up to Europe so when he is ousted he will get a top job there.

I hope Donald Trump takes the hint and comes over and arrests him before this happens.

Alan Zanetti,
Sparsholt, Hants

Brexit's a disaster – hold another referendum now

I NOTICE on an almost daily basis you say Keir Starmer is betraying the people over Brexit.

Brexit has been a disaster for this country. We were lied to by Nigel Farage, Boris Johnson and the right-wing press on how beneficial Brexit would be. Nothing less than another referendum is needed to ascertain the will of the people.

Andy Morgan,
Epsom, Surrey

Boycott US goods after Trump's Greenland threat

PROPOSALS from Emperor Donald of the Imperial States of America requires a robust response from us in Europe with respect to plans to annex Greenland ("Trump's military option on Greenland", January 7).

I propose we all boycott Imperial American imports, including cars, batteries for electric vehicles, pharmaceutical products and food.

I am currently replacing deep cycle traction batteries for my electric car and they are usually from a US company. However this time I'm looking at Europe, China and Japan or replacements. I trust you will all do the same.

John Ridarta,
Bromsgrove, Worcs

President's posturing is just an opening gambit

I AM mildly amused by the European hysteria about Greenland. Donald Trump doesn't have designs on the territory, he wants an impenetrable barrier to defend his Eastern Seaboard, presumably by building sovereign US bases. Eventually that will become obvious, assuming Trump's authority lasts that long. At present it's an opening bid in negotiations.

John Lavender,
Port Erin, Isle of Man

The real dictator's in the White House – fight him

SO BRITAIN and France state they will deploy troops to keep the peace on the Ukrainian border in the event of a ceasefire, knowing that Russian leader Vladimir Putin will never agree to it ("Britain will send troops to Ukraine after a ceasefire", January 7).

If we have to indulge in gesture politics, I would be more impressed if they had the guts to send troops to Greenland in the face of threats from another dictator. But where would Britain's troops come from when we can no longer even put a full division in the field?

John Kennedy,
Hornchurch, East London

LETTER OF THE DAY

UNDERHAND: Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer

Keir dragging us back into EU by stealth

THE new law being pushed through the Commons by the Government to align with, or join, a customs union is a stealthy and dishonest way of rejoining the EU ("Brexit rollback outrage as Starmer plots to hand EU food and farming powers", January 7).

Ostensibly to ease commerce with a parallel trading system, this pernicious tactic is straight out of the Remainer handbook.

Yet will farms in eastern Europe, particularly in Bulgaria, Romania and Albania, have similar husbandry to that demanded of Britain? Germany has been in recession since 2019, Italy has soaring economic and migration problems, and French politics is in crisis. So what has the UK to gain?

Jim Sokol,
Minehead, Somerset

Clueless PM puts troops in line of fire in Ukraine

DOES Keir Starmer understand what it means to commit to sending our military forces to Ukraine without limit of time or the financial implications, and who has given him the authority to do so – has our Parliament debated this measure or agreed on it?

Even if a peace deal is agreed, and that looks increasingly unlikely, Vladimir Putin will come again, thus putting our service personnel on the frontline to confront the Russian aggressor and engage directly in the war in the Ukraine, costing British lives.

Anthony Richardson,
Stirling

'Coalition of the willing' promise has hollow ring

WHAT kind of dreamworld do virtue-signalling Keir Starmer and Emmanuel Macron live in, thinking that Russia would ever agree to having British and French "military hubs" in Ukraine?

Vladimir Putin's steadfast position throughout the conflict has been sovereignty over the Donbas and no foreign troops on its border, so this latest promise from the 35 bankrupt "coalition of the willing" nations is as empty as that of their making good the loss of the US's $200billion Ukraine support.

Roy Daniels,
Kingsclere, Hants

Britain's a military pigmy barely fit to fight a war

BRITAIN, although having a bigger economy than France, can barely afford to keep a military force of approximately 100,000 less than France. Yet Keir Starmer struts the world stage as if we are still a leading military power.

Peter Morgan,
Shrewsbury, Shrops

Begum could bank millions if we let ISIS bride return

JUDGING by his latest track record, I am waiting to see how much public money David Lammy awards Shamima Begum if the Government is forced by the ECHR to allow her to return to the UK ("Mahmood will fight Euro court over ISIS bride", January 6).

If it is means-tested, taking into account her poor unfortunate experiences while living in Syria and her right to a family life, then it could run into millions.

Paul Hartfree,
Coningsby, Lincs

Read riot act to schools over failure to teach kids

WHILE it is admirable what Sally Wrampling and her team are doing, I find it unbelievable a charity has to go into schools to teach reading ("Vital children fall back in love with reading books", January 6).

Do schools not have English teachers? Reading is required for schoolchildren, from knowing what questions are being asked to exams.

If Sally and her team have to do this, it shouldn't be a charity, they should be paid as teachers.

Anne Jones,
Stalybridge, Greater Manchester

New Chelsea head coach a true prince among men

WHATEVER is said about Liam Rosenior, I can confirm that he is a thoroughly decent man who fully feels for the fans ("Liam can find cure for Blues", January 6).

When he was a coach at Derby County they were beaten 4-0 by Brentford. He saw Derby fans going into our pub and he came in and personally apologised to every one of them for his team's performance.

I've never known that to have ever happened before.

Martin Peters,
Feltham, West London

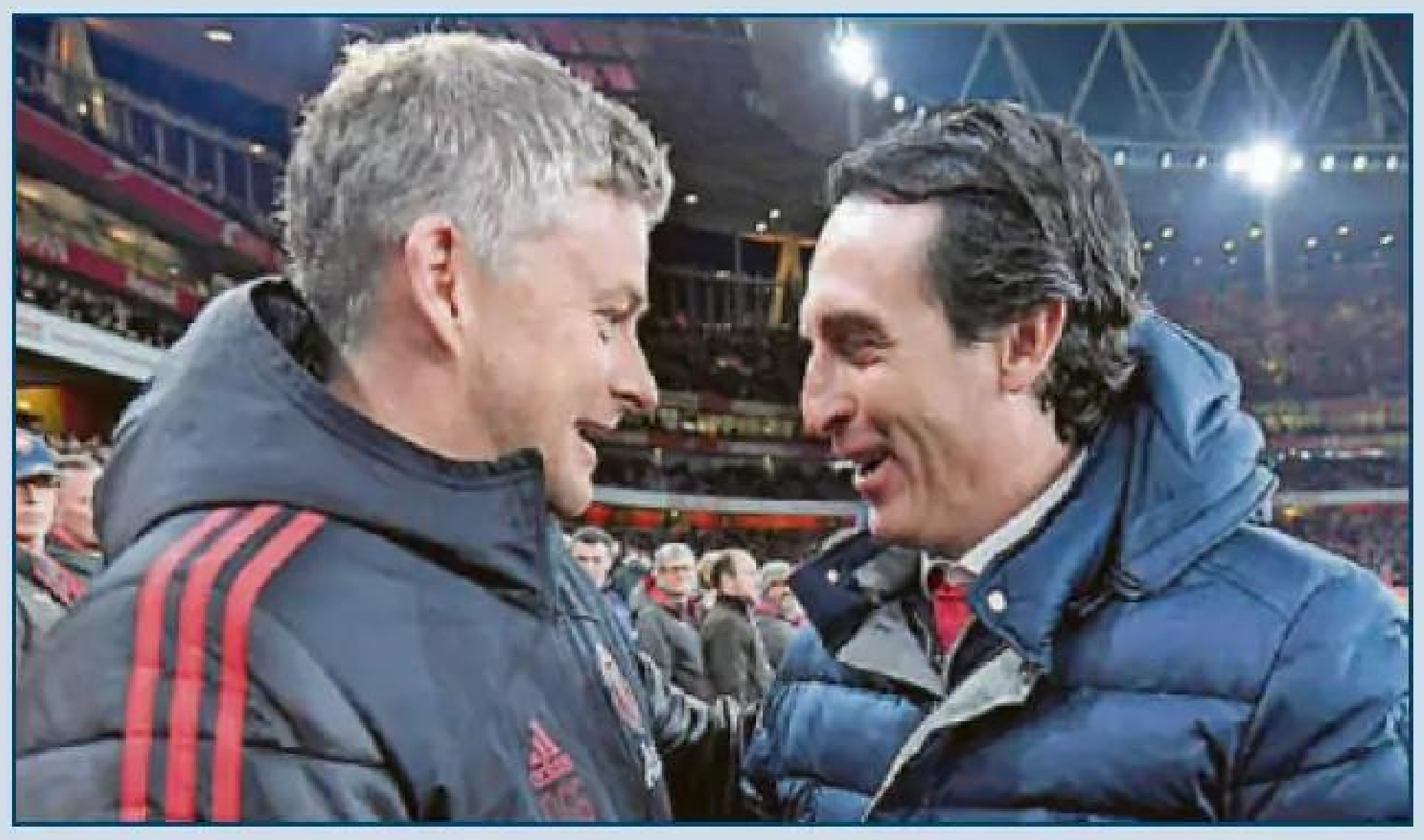
OLE FOOTBALL BACK AT UNITED? OUR UNAI'S KING OF THE VILLA

SO WE have Ole Gunnar Solskjaer top of the list for caretaker role at Manchester United with a few more names in tow ("Old boys' club", January 7).

But there will never be another Sir Alex Ferguson, who took United to great heights.

And now enters Liam Rosenior, stepping in as head coach at Chelsea. Good luck to them both, but Unai Emery is doing a top job at my local team Aston Villa, long may he continue. We know its a difficult task – managerial roles and some luck plays a massive part – onwards and upwards we go.

Annette Hale,
Aldridge, West Mids



TODAY: Thursday January 8, 2026

ON THIS DAY

5p DAILY EXPRESS

WATCH OUT... GALE FORCE WINDS ON WAY, SAY EXPERTS

FREE ELVIS DVD

MASSACRED IN MINUTES

Britain on red alert as jihadi assassins shoot 12 dead in Paris

CHILLING MOMENT GUNMEN STRUCK

11 years ago (2015)

We covered the "barbaric" terrorist attack at French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris, in which 12 people died.

Brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi went on the rampage in revenge for the magazine's cartoons of Mohammed. In a copycat attack at a kosher supermarket a terrorist murdered four others.

The bloodbath sparked the slogan #jesuischarlie in solidarity with the victims of the atrocity.

65 years ago (1961)

The French voted 75 to 25 per cent in favour of Algerian independence. The North African country had been engaged in an eight-year struggle against colonial rule which cost 350,000 lives.

22 years ago (2004)

The Queen officially named the RMS Queen Mary 2, the largest ocean liner ever built.

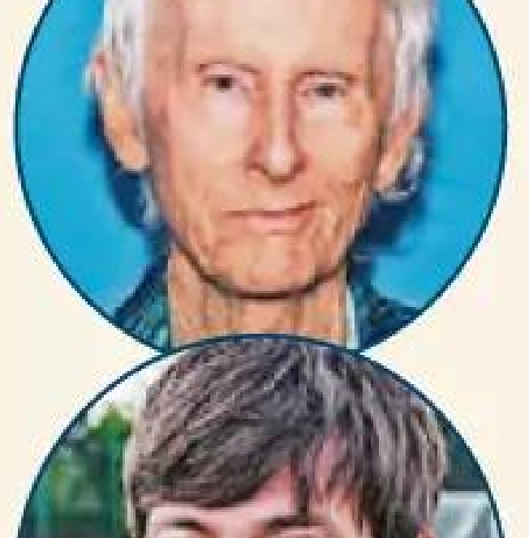
The QM2 was built by the Cunard Line to succeed the Queen Elizabeth 2 which went out of service in 2008.

The ship was named after the first RMS Queen Mary, which had its maiden voyage in 1936. She is currently the only ocean liner in service between Southampton and New York.

BIRTHDAYS

Singer **Dame Shirley Bassey** is 89. She has sung three Bond theme songs.

Maleficent star **Sam Riley** is 46. He was named one of Britain's best dressed men.


The Doors guitarist **Robby Krieger** is 80. He taught himself to play guitar.

Spanish midfielder **David Silva** is 40. He is nicknamed Merlin.

TODAY'S GIGGLE

What do you call a camel without a hump? Humphrey.

Chums

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RUSSELL GRANT

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

When you're feeling angry with someone, try to rise above it, smile and hide those strong feelings away. It would be best to walk away, especially if a particularly stubborn person won't change their views. There is a solution to this issue, but it requires diplomacy and you need to remain calm throughout the whole process.

For more call **0905 789 4171**
(80p/min + network access charge)

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

If anyone needs your help, support or guidance, then your generosity continues to shine through. Not only do you always empathise with others, you really want to be there for them. Although you aren't demanding or expecting it, what you give will be returned. The more generous you are, the more the world will reciprocate.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
(80p/min + network access charge)

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

In a conflict with a friend or workmate, you might be tempted to choose the easier option to agree with them in order to maintain harmony. If the issue is minor, this could indeed be the most effective resolution. A text message will remind you of something you need to take care of. Some things can't be put off any longer.

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

You might be worried about a neighbour who hasn't been seen much recently. Why not pop around and check in on them? You could lend the helping hand that they're in need of and it will give both of you a lift. There's a lot to discuss and decisions need to be made at home, but this will all take longer than expected.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SHIRLEY BASSEY
Born on this day, 1937

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

Conversations in the home will be positive. The glass is feeling half full. Housemates are interested in your views and they do understand your perspective. In fact, everyone seems unusually keen to help each other out. When you see this, you might push for ideas that caused dissension in the past to be resolved.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

Expect a lively day when you will be open to trying something different and unusual. A need to break out of a rut promotes a strong sense of independence and makes you eager for new experiences and challenges. You're in search of excitement or something different and that is precisely what is on the horizon this year.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

You should stay silent about certain plans until you feel more confident about them. You're unlikely to gain support while you are uncertain. Others will be quick to offer their opinions, but you will prefer to figure things out independently. Everyone has their own approach, and you want to discover yours on your own.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

You might use your influence over others in positive ways. Your decisions and actions will be noticed by those around you, especially work superiors and important figures in your community. You want to feel you are helping others, whether they are friends in your inner circle or people you hardly know.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

Arrangements that have already been made face serious disruptions. Some will be due to the actions of a person who isn't as reliable as you thought they were. You could be either surprised or inspired by certain information that's passed on to you in a secretive way later in the day. Remember that nothing changes if nothing changes.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

You are very much aware of those around you. Your intuition is strong and with your ability to sense the moods and feelings of your family and friends, you might surprise them by making suggestions they had not expected to come from you. There is no point sticking with routines and plans that only bring frustration.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

Your mood remains reflective and you would rather spend your precious time alone right now. Busy and noisy environments will make you feel nervous although you aren't able to pinpoint the reason why. This makes it difficult for you to concentrate. Practicing yoga and meditation will help you relax and find peace.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

You're feeling restless and uncertain and not really sure what it is you want out of this day, or in fact the weeks to come. The best way to channel this nervous energy is to keep your mind and body occupied and your mind will soon clear. There's a good chance you will hear some surprising news or find out a secret about someone.

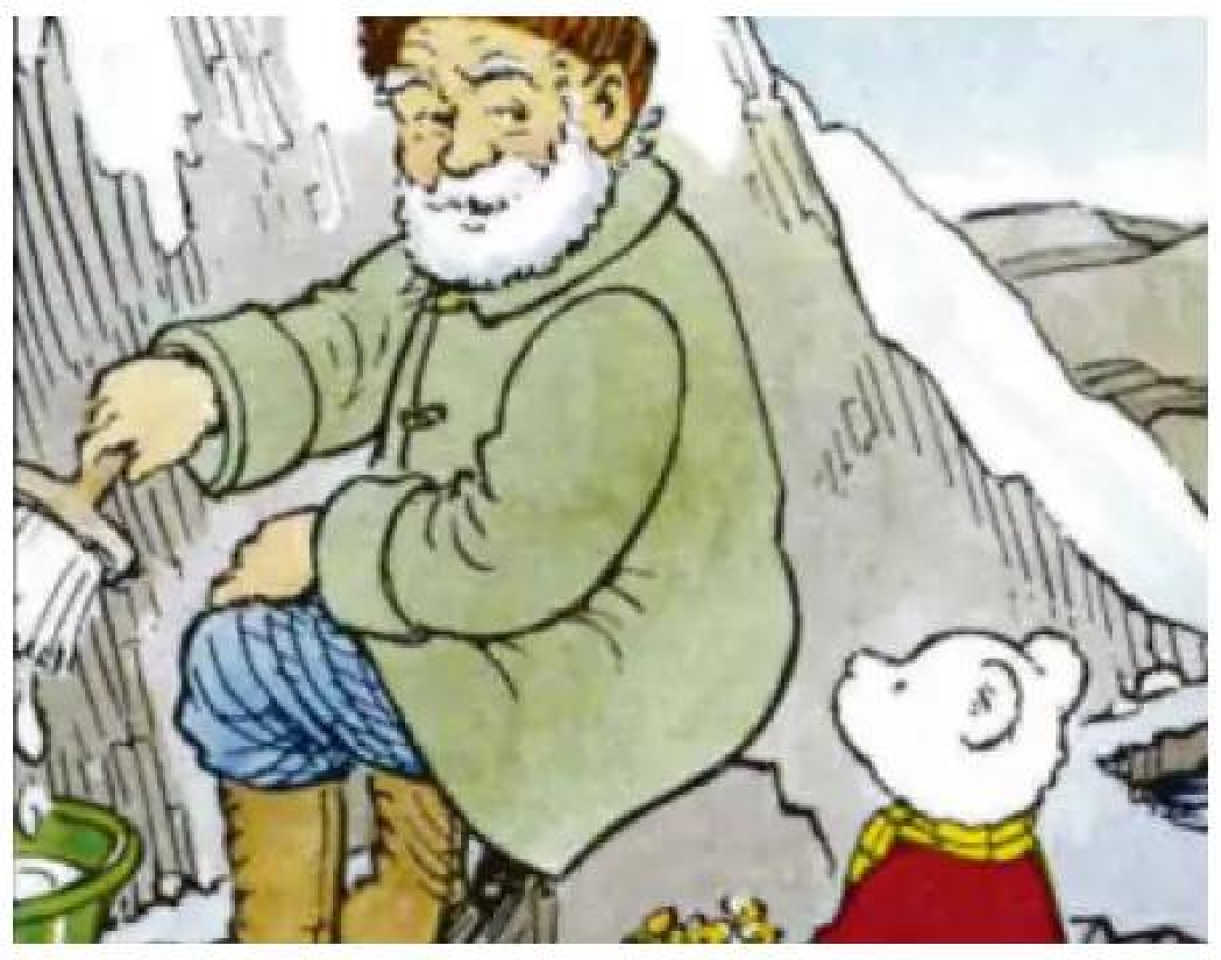
For more call **0905 789 4182**
(80p/min + network access charge)

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge – maximum of 5 minutes duration. You must be over 18 and have the bill payer's permission. Service provider Spoke. Helpline 0333 202 3390

NUTWOOD TALES

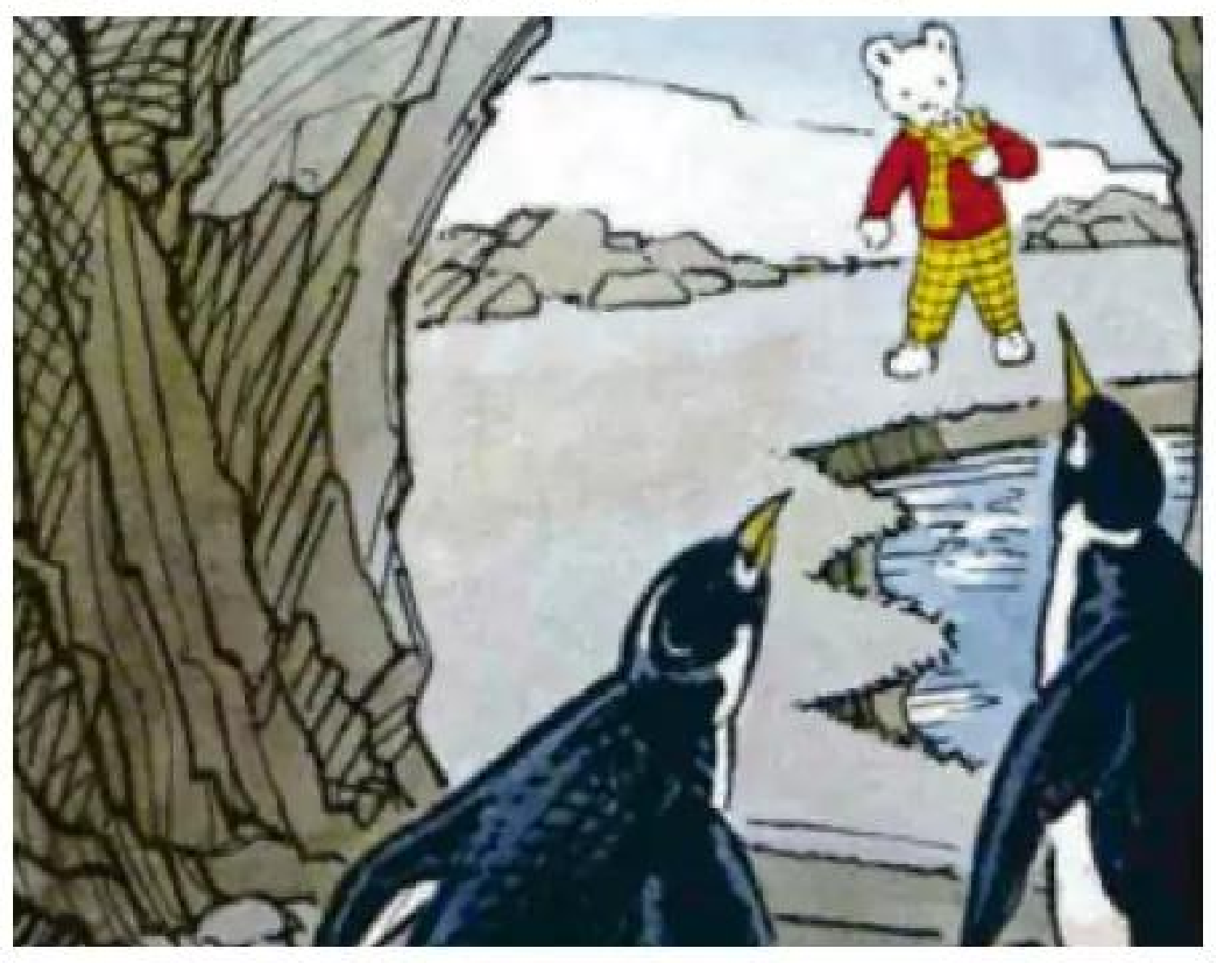
To order a copy of the Rupert Annual 2024 (£10.99) visit www.expressbookshop.com or call Express Bookshop on 020 3176 3832. Free UK P&P on online orders over £25.

RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.5



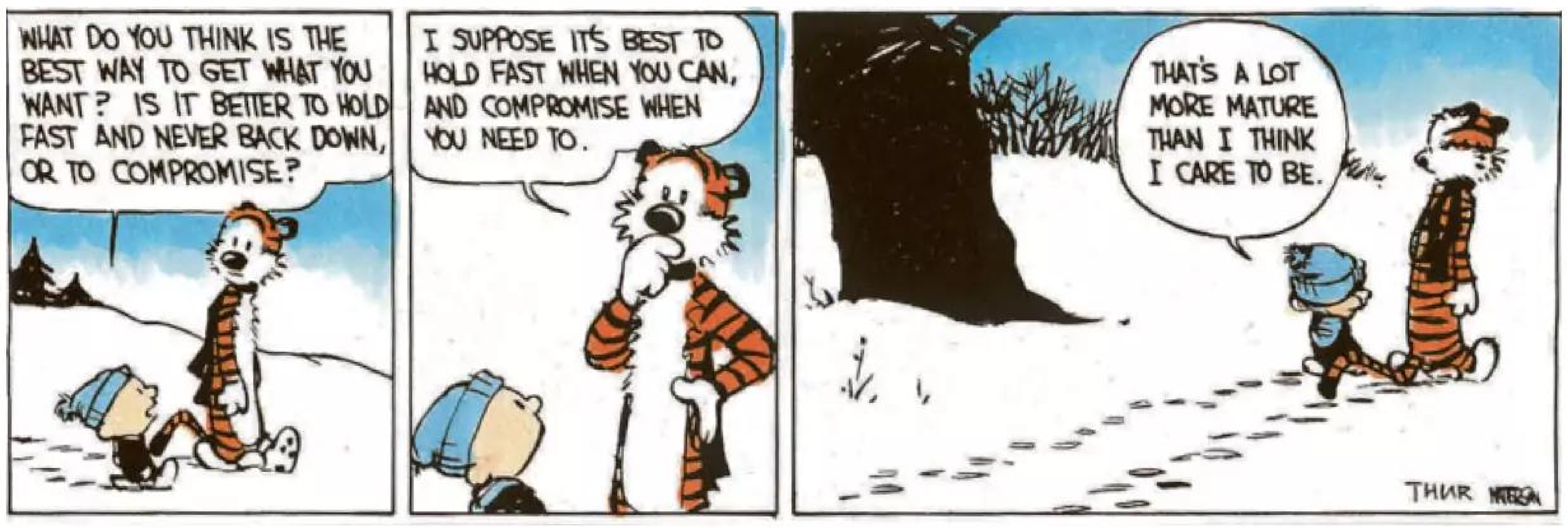
"I've done my best to put things right,
I'm even painting these rocks white."

Then Rupert thinks, "I must find out
Just what the mystery's all about."

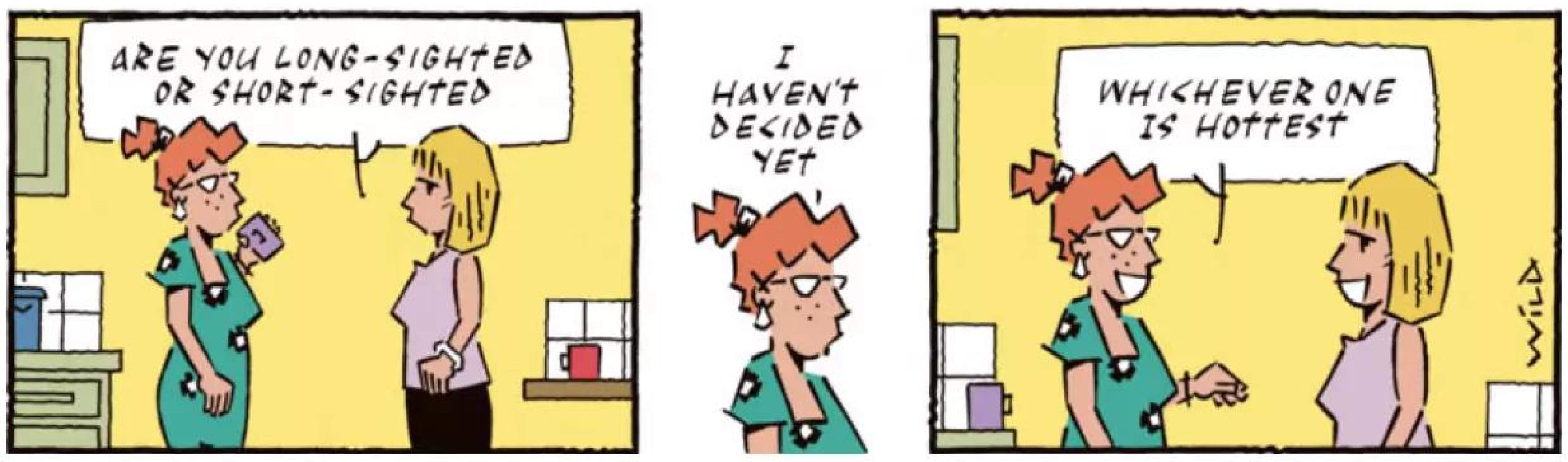


Captain Chubb shakes his head and turns away from the penguins. "I don't know what's wrong," he says. "I feed them well, I've made them a big pool and I'm even painting the rocks white to make them feel at home!" The captain sighs, sits down and starts work with a big brush. Rupert watches then wanders back to look at the two penguins. "They aren't screeching this time," he notices. "And they don't even look angry. I wonder why!"

CALVIN AND HOBBES
BILL WATTERSON


WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BEST WAY TO GET WHAT YOU WANT? IS IT BETTER TO HOLD FAST AND NEVER BACK DOWN, OR TO COMPROMISE?
I SUPPOSE IT'S BEST TO HOLD FAST WHEN YOU CAN, AND COMPROMISE WHEN YOU NEED TO.
THAT'S A LOT MORE MATURE THAN I THINK I CARE TO BE.
THUR

FAITH, HOPE AND SUE
LISA WILD



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The Northfield Dual Motor Riser Recliner from Artemis Home is designed with you in mind. It combines ease, support, and a touch of luxury to help you relax in comfort and confidence. Whether you're easing into the afternoon with a cup of tea or getting the help you need to stand up more easily, the Northfield offers dependable support and comfort that fits seamlessly into your daily routine.

Thanks to its clever dual motor system, you can raise your legs and recline your back separately. This means you can find the exact position that suits you, whether it's feet up for a well-earned rest, or fully reclined for a cosy nap. Smooth, quiet operation makes every movement effortless.

ELEGANT SUPPORT THAT LASTS

The chair's sturdy wooden frame supports up to 130kg and is upholstered in supple bonded leather that feels soft to the touch and looks timeless in any home. Generous padding through the back, seat and armrests cushions the body gently, making it easy to sit comfortably for longer periods.

COMFORT YOU CAN FEEL

The Northfield doesn't just look after your posture; it also helps soothe tired muscles. Built-in massage points target your lower and upper back, while a warming lumbar heat function helps ease stiffness and encourages relaxation. It's especially comforting during cooler months or for those with everyday aches and pains.

NO-FUSS DELIVERY, FULLY ASSEMBLED

With two-man delivery and full in-room setup included, there's nothing to do but sit back and enjoy. Just plug in, press a button, and let the Northfield take care of the rest.

- ✓ Dual motor-operated rise and recline
- ✓ Warming lumbar heat function
- ✓ Massage points in the seat, lower and upper back
- ✓ Bonded leather upholstery
- ✓ Size: H96 x W86 x D93 cm

yimbly.com/Offer104 Quote **Offer104** Offer ends 31st January

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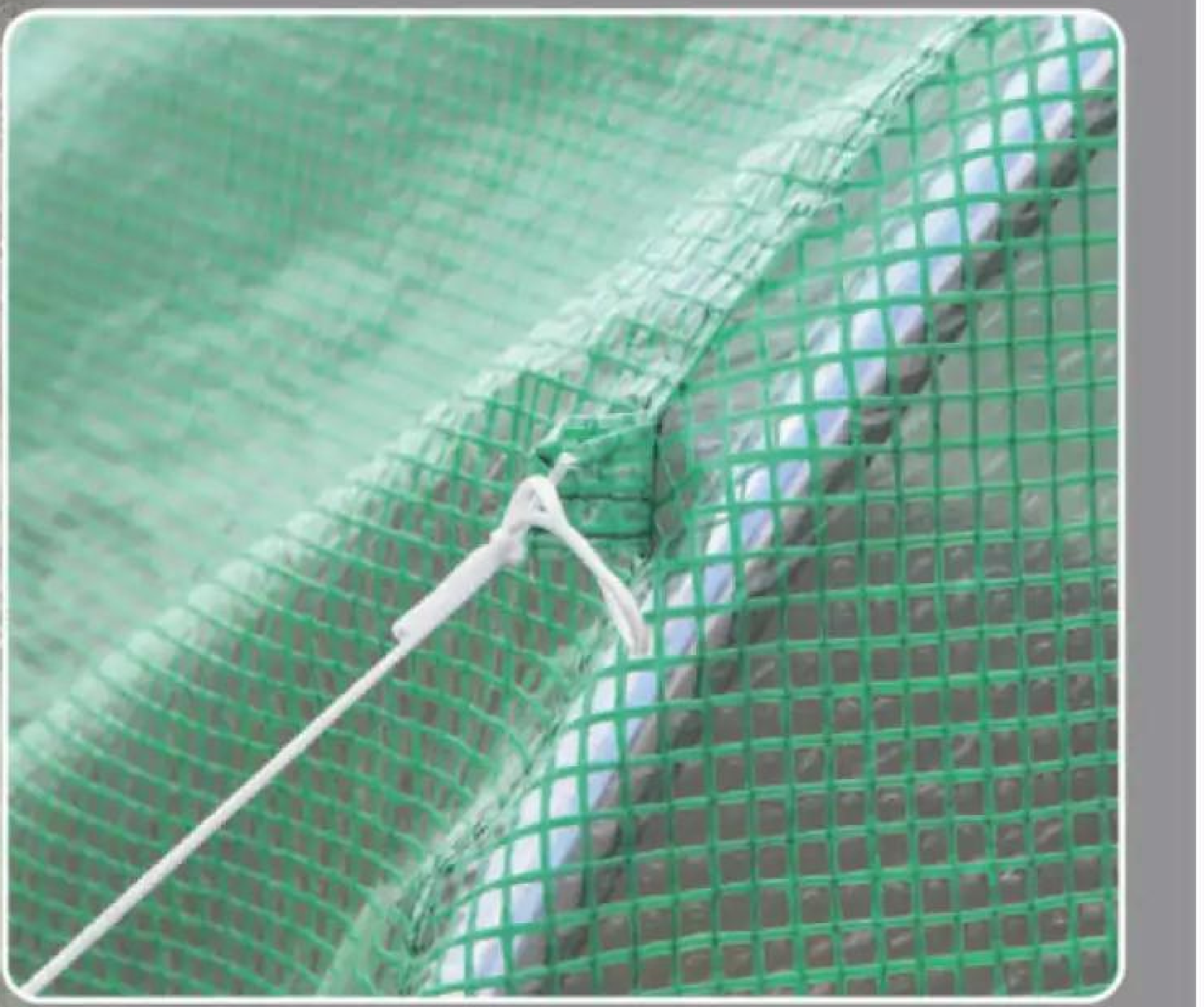

The early months of the new year are ideal for getting organised and preparing a garden space before the growing season begins. This 3.5 x 2m polytunnel greenhouse offers a sheltered, structured area for vegetables, flowers and greenery. Its wide interior provides space to introduce shelving, helping plants and tools stay neat and accessible. Built with a steel frame and reinforced by metal rods, the structure is designed to stand firm. Included guy ropes and ground stakes allow it to be secured safely into the ground. Mesh windows support steady airflow, while the large roll up door allows easy entry for arranging, checking and caring for plants. Made from steel and polyethylene, it suits regular garden use throughout the year. Measuring 200 x 350 x 200cm, it fits comfortably into many gardens and supports calm, steady preparation for the months ahead without feeling rushed or cluttered. The generous height allows movement inside and the open layout helps keep daily tasks clear and organised while planning planting and placement before the season starts with confidence and control inside.

- ✓ Made from: Steel, polyethylene
- ✓ Dimensions: H200 x W350 x D200cm
- ✓ Assembly: Self-assembly required

yimbly.com/Offer19 Quote **Offer19** Offer ends 1st February

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AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET			
FTSE 100	10048.2	▼	-74.5
FTSE 250	22880.8	▲	+88.9
FTSE ALL SHARE	5417.1	▼	-33.0
Shares Traded	11734.9 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE		
Abrdn	210	+2½
AstraZeneca	14224	+186
BAE Systems	1926	+44½
BT Group	182	+¼
GSK	1901½	+2
Marks & Spencer Group	328½	+1
National Grid	1184½	+12½
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1259	+14½
Saga	413	+5
Sainsbury (J)	336½	+4
Vodafone Group	103¼	+2¾
Whitbread	2563	+18

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE		
Aviva	679	-11
Barclays	479½	-8¾
BP	418¼	-13¾
Centrica	176	-½
Convatec Group	243¾	-½
Haleon	373½	-3
HSBC Holdings	1190¾	-26½
Int Consolidated Airlines	432	-5
Lloyds Banking Group	99	-1½
NatWest Group	632½	-28¼
Shell	2655½	-91½
Tesco	452½	-2½
Unilever	4631	-113

WORLD MARKETS			
WALL STREET	48996.1	▼	-466.0
TOKYO	51962.0	▼	-556.1
HONG KONG	26459.0	▼	-251.5
GERMANY	25122.3	▲	+230.1
FRANCE	8233.9	▼	-3.5

STERLING VALUE			
Dollar	1.347	▼	-0.003
Yen	211.061	▼	-0.473
Euro	1.152	▼	-0.003

DOLLAR VALUE			
Dollar/Yen	156.647	▼	-0.0231
Dollar/Euro	0.855	▼	-0.0002

COMMODITIES		
GOLD($)	▼	4460.53
KRUGERRAND(£)	▼	3311.12
SILVER(pence)	▼	5824.92
BRENT CRUDE($)	▼	59.91

OTHER INDICATORS	
Base rate	3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.95%
Retail Price Index	+3.8% (CPI +3.2%)
House price Index	+1.7%
Unemployment	1,832,000

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Canada	1.82 dollar
China	8.85 renminbi
Czech Rep.	26.20 koruna
Denmark	8.19 krone
Eurozone	1.14 euro
Hong Kong	9.88 dollar
Hungary	416.68 forint
Israel	4.01 shekel
Japan	202.72 yen
Jordan	0.89 dinar
Mexico	22.96 peso
New Zealand	2.27 dollar
Norway	13.11 krone
Poland	4.63 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.82 riyal
South Africa	21.27 rand
Sweden	11.83 krona
Switzerland	1.04 franc
Thailand	40.53 baht
Turkey	54.05 lira
United States	1.33 dollar

British investors swapping stock market for 'safe' pick

By **MAISIE GRICE**

BRITISH investors quit the stock market at a record pace last year, as Budget worries sparked a flight to safe assets.

Equity fund outflows hit £6.7billion – twice the £3.3bn of Brexit referendum year 2016, said funds network Calastone.

December was the seventh consecutive month of outflows – investors withdrew a net £188million, a total £10.6bn since June, in the longest-recorded selling spree.

Actively managed funds bore the brunt of exits, shedding £18.9bn of capital compared to inflows of £12.2bn for passively managed strategies.

Passive global equity funds proved more popular than active ones for the first time since 2015. Yet December's outflow was the lowest since June and an improvement on July to November, amid fears on pension tax-free allowances and cash ISA cuts.

OUTFLOWS: Rose for seventh month

Widespread selling led to both October and November's outflows topping £3bn.

December's improvement was notable in the equity fund sector, with the biggest recovery in North American funds – November's outflows of £812m turned into a £107m inflow.

The FTSE 100 hit record highs last year but UK equities were unfavoured by investors, resulting in a net selling shrink from £847m to £541m last month – the 10th consecutive year of withdrawals.

Edward Glyn, head of global markets at Calastone, said: "The sudden, dramatic slowdown in outflows between November and December is a clear indicator that months of pre-Budget speculation contributed to the record outflows from equity funds between June and Budget day."

As investors turned to haven assets money-market funds enjoyed a record 2025, attracting a net £5.84bn of new cash.

Fixed-income funds inflows rose 50% to £1.51bn – less than half the decade average and reflecting volatile conditions caused by fears over inflation and fiscal policy.

Glyn said: "Record money market inflows point to investors favouring the safety of cash, suggesting they perceive equity valuations to be teetering after a dramatic 2025 bull run.

"Solid inflows to mixed-asset funds and fixed-income support the notion that risk-off is the name of the game."

An interest rate cut this year is predicted to give property funds a boost.

BUILDING SLUMP WORST SINCE 2020

Government is set to miss house-building target, say analysts

THE construction industry has now been in decline for a year, according to one benchmark – putting the government's ambitious target for 1.5 million new homes under threat.

S&P Global's poll of purchasing managers recorded a score of 40.1 in December, the lowest since May 2020. Fifty or more is growth.

Construction was damaged by low confidence, higher costs – including taxes and materials – and fears leading up to the Budget.

But optimism picked up, with 37% of businesses expecting more work in 2026. Amy Wood, of Capital Economics, said: "New housing starts are likely to rise this year, though they will remain low and undershoot the government's home-building target."

Carillion money chiefs penalised for role in collapse

LARGE FINE: Richard Adam

THE City watchdog has fined two former finance directors of collapsed construction firm Carillion for their role in making "misleading" statements.

The Financial Conduct Authority said Richard Adam, who served from 2007 to 2016, and Zafar Khan – for nine months after him – knew of "serious financial troubles" in Carillion's UK business but failed to reflect this in company announcements.

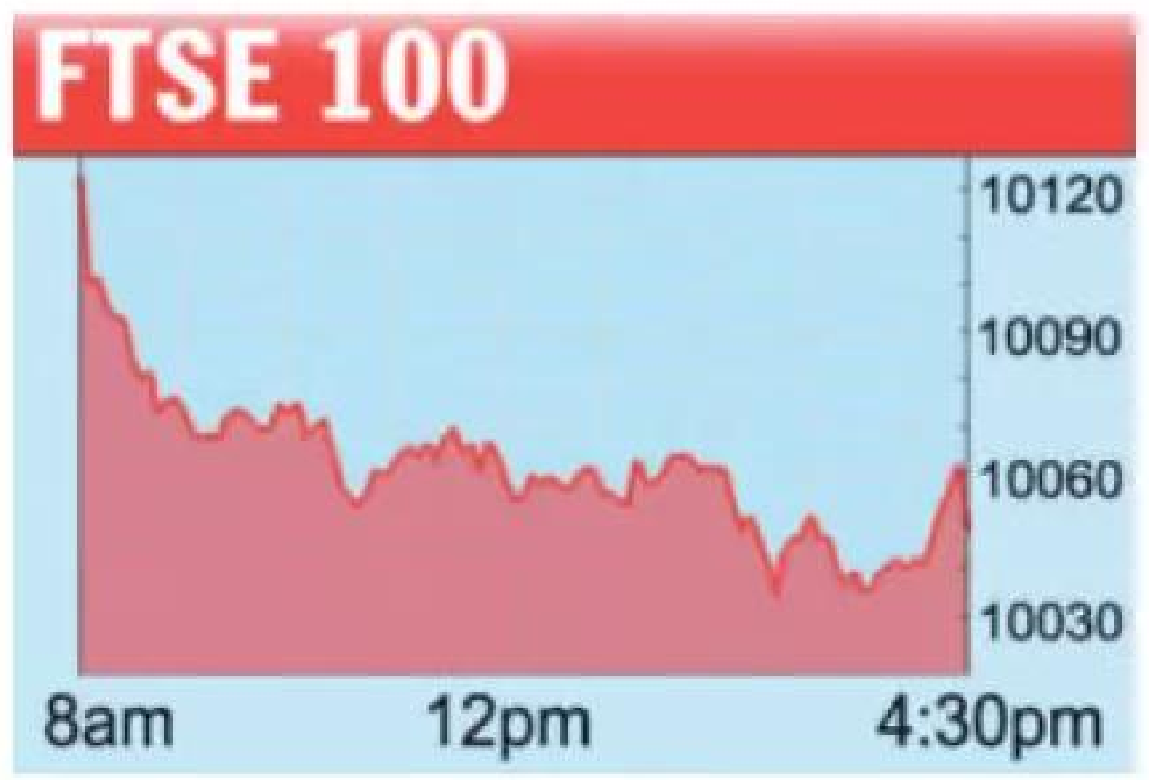
Adam was fined £232,800 and Khan £138,900 after they withdrew their challenges to the FCA's decision.

Steve Smart, an FCA director, said: "Those in positions of responsibility have a duty to keep the market accurately and adequately informed. With Carillion, we have seen the serious impact it can have when they don't."

Carillion collapsed in 2018 with almost £7billion in debts and more than 3,000 job losses. The government, which had contracts with it, lost £150m.

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

			52 WEEK	
COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	HIGH	LOW
3i Group	3181#	-63	4459	2999
A.B. Foods	2151#	+4	2337	1841½
Admiral Group	†			
Airtel Africa	372¾	+5	375½	114½
Alliance Trust	1294		1324	1050
Anglo American	3150	-107	3258	2003¾
Antofagasta	3387	-155	3550	1383
Ashtead Group	5474	+44	5538	3659
AstraZeneca	14224	+186	14312	9667
Auto Trader	568½#	-4½	908½	562
Aviva	679	-11	694	468¾
Babcock International	1441#	+53	1444	485¾
BAE Systems	1926	+44½	2060	1154
Barclays	479½	-8¾	488½	241¾
Barratt Development	385	+12¼	482¼	350
Beazley Group	806		973	769
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4006	+104	4324	3462
BP	418¼	-13¾	476¼	331¾
British Amer.Tob	3966#	-70	4421	2905
British Land	415¾#	+10¾	420½	321¼
BT Group	182#	+¼	222¾	138¼
Bunzl	2032	-16	3452	2020
Burberry Group	1339½	-20½	1371½	627¾
Centrica	176	-½	180	132¼
Coca-Cola HBC	3712	+20	4034	2708
Compass Group	2333	+28	2843	2290
Convatec Group	243¾	-½	295½	221¼
CRH	9208	-300	9616	6142
Croda International	2726	-31	3383	2465
DCC	4498	+86	5600	4390
Diageo	1577	-67	2555	1564
Diploma	5615	+115	5650	3624
EasyJet	504½	-17½	587¾	427½
Entain	743½	-28¼	1022	501¼
Experian Group	3444	+60	4088	3091
F&C Inv Tst	1265#	+4	1271	962
Flutter Entert.	15710	-890	23630	14670
Fresnillo	3500	-178	3678	644½
Games Workshop	18450#	-80	19840	12410
GlaxoSmithKline	1901½#	+2	1909¾	1264
Glencore	422¾	-5¼	431	230
Haleon	373½	-3	415¼	326½
Halma	3660#	+42	3660	2360
Hikma	1567	-18	2340	1507
Hiscox	1388	+7	1429	1035
HSBC Holdings	1190¾	-26½	1217½	713¼
IMI	2616	+82	2624	1606
Imperial Brands	3004	-38	3312	2579
Informa	893¼	-3¾	993½	640¼
InterContinental Htl	10077¾	-3577¼	10319	5511½
Intermediate Cap.Grp	2100#	-20	2450	1569
Intertek Group	4596	-16	5385	4064
Intl Consolidated Airlines	432	-5	438½	224½
JD Sports	83	-½	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	329¾	+8¼	330	228¼
Land Securities	644½#	+20	650	499½
Legal & General	262	-3½	266½	215¼
Lloyds Banking Grp	99	-1½	100½	53
London & Stamford Prop	196#	+7	204½	170½
London Stock Ex.	8890	-212	12095	8138
M&G	295¾	-1½	299¾	172¾
Marks & Spencer	328½#	+1	411¼	318½
Melrose	630¾	+10¾	680	386
Mondi	915½	+4	1326	819
National Grid	1184½#	+12½	1191	910¾
NatWest Group	632½	-28¼	665½	374½
Next	14280	+15	14580	9028
Pearson	1057	+7	1379	984½
Pershing Square Hold	4604	-52	5090	3244
Persimmon	1391½	+38	1405	1037½
Phoenix Group	732½	-8	746	479½
Prudential	1164	-31½	1205	595¼
Reckitt Benckiser	6054	-6	6100	4633
RELX	3142	+64	4135	2972
Rentokil Initial	464½	+4½	466	309½
Rightmove	504½	-2	823¾	495¾
Rio Tinto	6258	-33	6317	4117
Rolls-Royce Group	1259	+14½	1268	563½
Sage Group	1082	+16	1348	1050
Sainsbury (J)	336½	+4	355¾	228¾
Schroders	413¾	-1¼	428¼	289¼
Scottish Mortgage	1210	+2	1218	815¼
SEGRO	743½	+24½	743½	599
Severn Trent	2885#	+47	2896	2338
Shell	2655½	-91½	2931½	2291½
Smith & Nephew	1255	-1	1435	937¾
Smiths Group	2462	+26	2550	1687
Smurfit Kappa	2976	-60	4495	2558
Spirax-Sarco	6950	-15	8190	5445
SSE	2306#	+29	2319	1463½
St James's Place	1433	-15	1453	791
Standard Chartered	1790	-46½	1855½	878¾
Tesco	452½	-2½	475½	314½
Unilever	4631	-113	6177½	4609½
United Utilities	1232#	+16	1240	937½
Vodafone Group	103¼#	+2¾	103¾	64
Weir Group	2970	+20	2992	1984
Whitbread	2563	+18	3274	2335



Tech jobs bonanza with rising wages

THE tech corner of the jobs market looks to be defying the hiring freeze in other sectors.

New data shows such roles are not just surviving the slowdown, but are seeing salary growth in 2026.

Jobs platform Totaljobs found median advertised pay up 7.5% to just over £33,500.

That increase is being driven by demand for artificial intelligence, data and software engineering skills, even as employers retrench under higher taxes, weaker growth and regulatory uncertainty.

Python developers, for example, now hold salaries of up to £90,000, the report found, with tech architects close behind at £87,500.

Meanwhile, AI software developers are earning around £75,000, and senior engineers sit on £70,000.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

Aerospace & Defence

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Avon Rubber	1858	+22	2180	1338
Babcock International	1441#	+53	1444	485¾
BAE Systems	1926	+44½	2060	1154
Chemring Group	504	+6½	593	297½
QinetiQ Group	491¼	+11¾	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group	1259	+14½	1268	563½
Senior	215½	+3½	216½	115¾

Alternative Energy

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Porvair	844	+14	856	626

Banks

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Barclays	479½	-8¾	488½	241¾
Bco Santander	877	-18	895	377½
Close Brothers	518½	-15½	550½	208
HSBC Holdings	1190¾	-26½	1217½	713¼
Investec	565½	-3½	596	414
Lloyds Banking Grp	99	-1½	100½	53
Metro Bank	125¾	+½	133½	81
NatWest Group	632½	-28¼	665½	374½
Paragon Group	868	-8½	970	686½
Standard Chartered	1790	-46½	1855½	878¾

Beverages

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Barr (AG)	618	+1	711	558
Coca-Cola HBC	3712	+20	4034	2708
Diageo	1577	-67	2555	1564

Chemicals

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Carclo	56¼	-2¾	80	21
Croda International	2726	-31	3383	2465
Elementis	170¼	-¼	176½	115
Johnson Matthey	2298#	-26	2324	1156
Synthomer	64	+½	158¼	46
Treatt	210	-6½	463	186½
Victrex	661	-4	1066	589

Construction & Materials

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Balfour Beatty	724½	+1	724½	390½
Costain Group	160	-2	168	86
CRH	9208	-300	9616	6142
Dialight	361	+9	370	89
Galliford Try	529	+7	539	321
Gleeson (MJ)	410	-1	538	320
Keller Group	1714	+20	1714	1240
Kier Group	226½	+2½	231½	115¼
Marshalls	178¾	-½	293	162
Morgan Sindall	4900	+120	4995	2945
Severfield-Rowen	28½	+¼	52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co.	132½#		139½	110

Electricity

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Drax Group	880½	-3½	902	536½
SSE	2306#	+29	2319	1463½
Telecom Plus	1378	+6	2085	1340

Electronic & Electrical Equipment

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Acal	602#	-5	738	486
Halma	3660#	+42	3660	2360
Oxford Instruments	2185#	+30	2185	1500
Renishaw	3715	+90	3730	2145
TT Electronics	110½	-9½	154	73
XP Power	885	-17	1314	621

Equity Investment Instruments

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aberdeen Asian Sml	376	-1	380	256
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1594		1598	1212
Acorn Income				
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	66		71	65½
Alliance Trust	1294		1324	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.	273		273½	212½
AVI Global Tst	258½	-½	266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan	911	+1	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	131	-½	136½	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst.	135½	+¼	135¾	101
Baronsmead VCT.2	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP	402½	+1	414	371½
Biotech Growth Trust	1240	+55	1285	620
BlackRock Mining	879	-19	903	406½
Bluehone AiM VCT2	28¼#		31	28¼
British Assets Tst	26¾		49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1478	-4	1488	1140
Caledonia Inv.	381½#	-2½	391½	334½
City Natural Res.Yld	361	-4	369	165¾
City Of London	537	-1	538½	411½
Dunedin Ent.IT.				
Dunedin Income	307	-2	310	262
Edin Wwide Inv	229½	+6½	229½	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.	831	+2	839	680
Edin.US Tracker	380#	+4	380	289½
Elderstreet VCT	38¾		41	36¾
F&C Cap&Inc.	348	+1	350	287
F&C Inv Tst	1265#	+4	1271	962
F&C Smaller Cos	179#		179¾	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1405	+15	1522½	1115
Fidelity Asian	614		628	454
Fidelity European	425½	-1	431	338½
Fidelity Special	422#	-1½	425	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In	825	-2	962	795
Foresight Tech.VCT	65½		75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.	1100	+2	1110	632
Graphite Ent	1504		1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'	268		272	190
Hansa Tst Plc	270	-2	278	192½
Henderson Far Est	246½	-½	253½	190½
Henderson High Inc	190½#	-1	191½	151
Herald Inv.Tst.	2460	+20	2560	1738
HGCapital Tst.	505	-3	538	448
HSBC Infrastructure	117¾	+1¾	125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt	401½	-½	416½	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	970#	+24	996	480
International Public	126	+1¼	127¾	107¾
Invesco Asia	443#	-4	449	300
Invesco Perp UK	373	+½	386	313½
JPM American	1122	+6	1186	869
JPM Asian	468	-1	470½	331½
JPM Claverhouse	882	-4	886	660
JPM Emerg Mkt	142½	-¾	143½	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.	608#	+3	608	444½
JPM Global Emerging	176#	+½	177	118½
JPM Indian	1022	-2	1106	904
JPM Japanese	718#	+7	747	493
JPM Overseas IT	583	+3	610	480
JPM Smaller Co	326		338	253
JPM US Sml Co.	409	+4	516	338
Jupiter Euro.	925	+8	959	757
JZ Capital Partners	189		220	184
Law Debenture	1092#	+4	1096	788
Lowland Invest Co	163#	-1½	164¾	114½
Majedie Inv.	273	-3	280	230
Manchester&Lon.	816	+14	944	512
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst.	358	+2	386	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT	33½#		38	33½
Mercantile Inv Tst	260#	+1	260½	202½
Merchants Tst.	602	-4	608	474
Mid Wynd Int.	784	+6	836	664
Monks Inv.Tst.	1550	+12	1550	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst.	167	+2	183½	138
Montanaro Uk	101	-1	106½	87¾
Murray Inc.Tst.	924	-4	938	754
Murray Int.Tst	330½#	-½	335	239
New India	784	+6	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.	129	+2	129	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst				
Northern 2 VCT	53½#		57	52
Northern Venture	56½#		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	6½		7	5½
Pacific Assets	375		378	302
Pacific Horizon	827	-2	834	507
Pantheon Int.	379½	+2½	381½	266
Pershing Square Hold	4604	-52	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech	479	+4½	481	255½
RCM Technology Trust	545	+9	548	307
RIT Capital Partners	2220	-15	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment	295½	+½	304	264
Schroder Asia	689#	-4	693	461½
Schroder Inc.	352#	-2	354	255
Schroder Japan	323#		324	209
Schroder UK	205	-1	209	158½
Schroder UK M&S	724	+6	724	520
Scottish American	514		525	454½
Scottish Mortgage	1210	+2	1218	815¼
Shires Inc.	307#	-6	316½	222
Small Comp Div.Tst	138#	-2	161	124
Standard Life Equity	407#	-½	409	288½
Standard Life UK Sml	509	+1	531	426
Temple Bar	380½	-6	387½	258
Templeton Emrg.	246½#	+1	247	151¾
The European Inv.Tst	110	+1	110½	84
Throgmorton Tst.	630	+5	631	469
TR Euro.Growth	221½	+1½	222	163
TR Prop. IT	325½#	+8½	338½	277½
Witan Pacific	316	-½	322	214
Wwide Healthcare	386½#	+8½	397	265½

Financial Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3181#	-63	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure	379#	+2	379	301
Abrdn	210	+2½	212¼	123¾
Ashmore Group	177½	-5¼	193	125
Guinness Peat Group	85	+1¾	96	68¼
IG Group	1324	-18	1342	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	2100#	-20	2450	1569
International Pers Fin	235	+½	236	121½
IP Group	57¼	-2	65	34¾
Jupiter Fund Man.	171½	-2	174¼	68
Liontrust Asset Man	231½#	-15	462	231½
London Stock Ex.	8890	-212	12095	8138
M&G	295¾	-1½	299¾	172¾
Man Group	250¾	-4	255	154¾
Provident Financial	118		128½	45
Rathbone Brothers	1980	+6	1990	1406
S & U	2250	+10	2265¼	1330
Schroders	413¾	-1¼	428¼	289¼
St James's Place	1433	-15	1453	791
Tullett Prebon	252½	-3	311½	228
Walker Crips Group	13¼		16½	7½

Fixed Line Telecommunications

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Airtel Africa	372¾	+5	375½	114½
BT Group	182#	+¼	222¾	138¼

Food & Drug Retailers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Greggs	1773	+31	2832	1418
Marks & Spencer	328½#	+1	411¼	318½
Ocado	274	+10¼	395½	172¼
Sainsbury (J)	336½	+4	355¾	228¾
Tesco	452½	-2½	475½	314½

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Food Producers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
A.B. Foods	2151#	+4	2337	1841½
Anglo-Eastern	1400		1425	602
Carr's Milling	133	-1	157	101½
Cranswick	4860#	-35	5490	4625
Glanbia	1223½	+8¾	1371	789¾
Greencore Group	247	+1	278½	169¼
Kerry Grp 'A' Shs.	6334½	-243	8764¼	6330¼
Premier Foods	171	+4	214½	166
REA Holdings	125½		128¼	61½
Tate & Lyle	365½	+3¼	661	356½

Gas, Water & Multiutilities

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Centrica	176	-½	180	132¼
National Grid	1184½#	+12½	1191	910¾
Pennon Group	550½	+8½	552	387½
Severn Trent	2885#	+47	2896	2338
United Utilities	1232#	+16	1240	937½

General Industrials

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Bunzl	2032	-16	3452	2020
Goodwin	23400		23700	6180
Melrose	630¾	+10¾	680	386
Mondi	915½	+4	1326	819
Smiths Group	2462	+26	2550	1687
Smurfit Kappa	2976	-60	4495	2558

General Retailers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
ASOS	295	+3	436½	218½
Auto Trader	568½#	-4½	908½	562
B&M Europ Value Ret	165¼	+4½	359¾	155¼
Caffyns	425#		500	415
Dixons Carphone	131#	+1	146	82
Dunelm	1154	+20	1232	858½
Frasers Group	690	+3½	770	546
Halfords Group	143#	+¼	174½	116¼
Headlam Group	46½	-½	142	44¾
Howden Joinery	839½	+7½	914½	679½
Inchcape	770	-2	808	638
JD Sports	83	-½	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	329¾	+8¼	330	228¼
Next	14280	+15	14580	9028
Pets At Home	195½#	-½	273¼	192¾
RM Group	112½	-1½	118	82
Topps Tiles	46½#	+2	50	29
WH Smith	630	+3	1307	613½

Health Care Equipment & Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Convatec Group	243¾	-½	295½	221¼
Flying Brands	+¾		2	+½
Smith & Nephew	1255	-1	1435	937¾

Household Goods & Home Construction

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Barratt Development	385	+12¼	482¼	350
Bellway	2766#	+58	2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4006	+104	4324	3462
Bovis Homes	666¾	+8¾	698	510¾
Mcbride	145½	+½	159	99¼
Persimmon	1391½	+38	1405	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser	6054	-6	6100	4633
Taylor Wimpey	108	+2½	123¼	93

Industrial Engineering

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Bodycote	730	+4	736½	460½
Hill & Smith	2295#	+50	2296	1530
IMI	2616	+82	2624	1606
Morgan Crucible	225	+1½	274	177½
Northgate	387½#		395	273½
Rotork	338¾	+5¼	352	275¾
Spirax-Sarco	6950	-15	8190	5445
Vesuvius	415½	+6½	421	313¾
Weir Group	2970	+20	2992	1984
Xaar	110	+½	145	59

Industrial Metals & Mining

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Castings	276		319	234
Evraz				
Ferrexpo	73¾		110¾	44¼

Industrial Transportation

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Braemar Shipping Serv	225#		278	201
Clarkson	3940	+50	4505	2995
FirstGroup	188½	-¼	233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	372	-1	403	285

Leisure Goods

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Games Workshop	18450#	-80	19840	12410
Photo-Me Intl.	151½	+2	230	146¼

Life Insurance

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aviva	679	-11	694	468¾
Chesnara	297	-½	301	212¾
Legal & General	262	-3½	266½	215¼
Phoenix Group	732½	-8	746	479½
Prudential	1164	-31½	1205	595¼

Media

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
4imprint Group	4055	+25	6030	3035
Bloomsbury Publish.	478	-2	672	468
Future	520	-6½	1029	513
Informa	893¼	-3¾	993½	640¼
ITV	80¼		87¾	66¼
Pearson	1057	+7	1379	984½
Reach	54¼	-¾	88¼	53
STV Group	114	-6	218	103
Wilmington Group	293	+1	389	288
WPP Group	340¼	-9	787¾	269

Mining

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Anglo American	3150	-107	3258	2003¾
Anglo Pacific	117¾		118	50
Antofagasta	3387	-155	3550	1383
BHP Billiton	2368	-35	2403	1609½
Endeavour Mining	3926	-66	4004¼	1472
Fresnillo	3500	-178	3678	644½
Gem Diamonds	2¾	-¼	12	2½
Glencore	422¾	-5¼	431	230
Hochschild Mining	490½	-34	530	168
Kenmare Res.	256	+1	436	227
Petra Diamonds	17		30½	10½
Rio Tinto	6258	-33	6317	4117

Mobile Telecommunications

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Vodafone Group	103¼#	+2¾	103¾	64

Nonequity Investment Instruments

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1232½	-17½	1392½	1042½
Rights &Iss.Inc	2020	-40	2320	1670

Nonlife Insurance

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Admiral Group				
Beazley Group	806		973	769
Hiscox	1388	+7	1429	1035
Lancashire	607	-2	694	523

Oil & Gas Producers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
BP	418¼	-13¾	476¼	331¾
Cairn Energy	224	-3	331½	183
Enquest	10¼		16½	9¾
Gulf Keystone Pet.	176	-¼	224½	148¾
Harbour Energy	186	-7¾	294	151¼
Shell	2655½	-91½	2931½	2291½
Soco International	20¾#		27½	18
Tullow Oil	6½	-¼	23¾	4

Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Hunting	378½	-9½	396	246½
John Wood Group	23¾	-¼	72½	17¼

Personal Goods

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Burberry Group	1339½	-20½	1371½	627¾
PZ Cussons	72¾		88¼	66
Unilever	4631	-113	6177½	4609½

Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
AstraZeneca	14224	+186	14312	9667
Genus	2635	+60	2715	1424
GlaxoSmithKline	1901½#	+2	1909¾	1264
Haleon	373½	-3	415¼	326½
Hikma	1567	-18	2340	1507
Ovoca Gold	1¼			
Oxford Biomedica	728	+31	736	232½

Real Estate Investment & Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Boot (Henry)	219	-1	237	196
Cardiff Property	2700		2700	2450
CLS Holdings	60½		78½	53½
Foxtons	58½		68¼	52¼
Harworth Group	170½	+2½	189½	158½
Mountview Est.	9200	+225	10200	8700
Panther Secs.	285		320	280
Rightmove	504½	-2	823¾	495¾
Savills	1030	+4	1110	871
Wynnstay Props.	875		875	680

Real Estate Investment Trusts

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Big Yellow Group	1058#	+24	1180	848
British Land	415¾#	+10¾	420½	321¼
Capital & Counties	145	+4	161¼	113½
Derwent London	1835	+61	2096	1608
Grainger	190½	+10¾	228	177½
Great Portland Est.	327#	+11	363	262
Hammerson	342½	+8½	345¼	220½
Helical Bar	190¼#	+1¼	240	171¾
Land Securities	644½#	+20	650	499½
London & Stamford Prop	196#	+7	204½	170½
Primary Health	102¼	+4½	103½	86¼
SEGRO	743½	+24½	743½	599
Town Centre	128#	+1	149	117
Unite Group	570	+10½	879½	510
Value & Income	201#	-9	215	173
Workspace Group	406½	+7½	478½	362

Software & Computer Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Computacenter	3086	+42	3110	2024
Intec Telecom				
Microgen	295	-5	344	255
Moneysupermarket	186½		221½	180½
Pendragon	356½	+8½	558	296
RELX	3142	+64	4135	2972
Sage Group	1082	+16	1348	1050
Triad Group	250		400	240

Support Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Ashtead Group	5474	+44	5538	3659
Capita Group	407½	+4	411	175
DCC	4498	+86	5600	4390
Diploma	5615	+115	5650	3624
Essentra	93	-¼	129¾	89¾
Experian Group	3444	+60	4088	3091
Ferguson	16760#	+160	19470	11670
Hays	54½	+¼	88¼	52
Intertek Group	4596	-16	5385	4064
Johnson Service	138½	+1½	159½	122¾
London Security	2850		3800	2750
Macfarlane Group	72	-2	120½	62¾
Mears Group	360	+3½	417½	311½
Michael Page	239½	+2¾	341¼	219½
Mitie Group	171½	+4	171½	106½
Norish	18½		18¾	14
Paypoint	477	+1	853	438½
Rentokil Initial	464½	+4½	466	309½
Robert Walters	141½	+1½	325	116
RS Group	651	-1	681½	487¼
Serco Group	288	+8	288	147
SIG	10	-¼	18	8½
Smiths News	77	-½	78½	47½
Speedy Hire	25¾#	+¼	32¼	18
SThree	186¾	+2½	289½	137½
Travis Perkins	641	+7	714	494
Trifast	71		87½	59
Vitec Group	12½	+½	142	11

Technology Hardware & Equipment

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
BATM Advanced	16½		19¾	13

Tobacco

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
British Amer.Tob	3966#	-70	4421	2905
Imperial Brands	3004	-38	3312	2579

Travel & Leisure

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
888 Holdings	22	-½	74	21
Carnival	2339	-67	2406	1134
Celtic	199		208	142½
Compass Group	2333	+28	2843	2290
Domino's Pizza	178¾	+4½	302¾	167¼
EasyJet	504½	-17½	587¾	427½
Entain	743½	-28¼	1022	501¼
Flutter Entert.	15710	-890	23630	14670
Fuller Smith & Turner	732		744	508
Heavitree	220		280	200
InterContinental Htl	10075¼	-59½	10316½	5510
Intl Consolidated Airlines	432	-5	438½	224½
Irish Continental Uts	537½	+2½	560	380
Marston's	64	-¼	65	33¼
Mitchells & Butlers	268½	-4	291½	208½
National Express	22	-½	78	21
Rank Group	98	-1½	160½	77¾
Saga	413	+5	413	111½
Wetherspoon (JD)	746½	-14	804	541
Whitbread	2563	+18	3274	2335

AIM

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Alumasc Group	264	+9	395	232
Arbuthnot Banking	890	+12½	1100	837½
Boohoo	23	-1½	31½	10½
Camellia	5050		6050	4090
Churchill China	332	-4	725	322¼
CML Microsystems	285		335	210
Colefax Group	975		980	750
CPP Group	79	+1	162	68½
Cropper (James)	395		410	132½
Falkland Islands	249		316¾	162½
Fevertree Drinks	808	+2	998	611½
Filtronic	165	-8	181	82¼
James Halstead	135	-2½	181½	133
Mothercare	2½		4¼	2
Mpac Group	320	-2½	586	270
Naked Wine	74½	+1¾	93½	43
Nichols	940	-10	1465	926¾
Northamber	32½		34	26
Portmeirion	96½	+1½	189	93½
Regal Petroleum	16¾	+¼	26½	14½
Rockhopper Exploratn	71	-3	87¾	30½
Ten Alps	47½		73	47
Titon Holdings	97½		98	69
Volex	422#	-2½	430½	198¾
Young & Co Brewery A	769	+9	992	714

Ex-dividend * Ex-rights a Ex-All c Ex-capitalisation † Shares suspended

The service is provided for general information only and is not intended to address individual requirements. Appropriate independent advice should be obtained before making investment decisions. Reasonable care will be taken in ensuring the accuracy of the information provided but it may include errors, omissions or inaccuracies.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

THE MORECAMBE OFFSHORE WINDFARM GENERATION ASSETS ORDER 2025

THE PLANNING ACT 2008 AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

NOTICE OF A DECISION ON AN APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR EIA DEVELOPMENT

The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero ("the Secretary of State") gives notice under regulation 31(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ("the 2017 Regulations") that a determination has been made on an application made by Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Limited ("the Applicant") for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 ("the 2008 Act") for development that constitutes "Environmental Impact Assessment development" as defined in the 2017 Regulations.

The application is for the construction, operation and maintenance of an offshore wind powered generating station with an output capacity of over 100 megawatts, located in English waters in the eastern Irish Sea ("the Proposed Development"). The Proposed Development includes the generating assets relating to the windfarm, with the transmission assets being subject to a separate application for consent.

The Secretary of State has decided, following consideration of the report of the Examining Authority which conducted an examination into the application, that development consent should be **granted** for the Proposed Development.

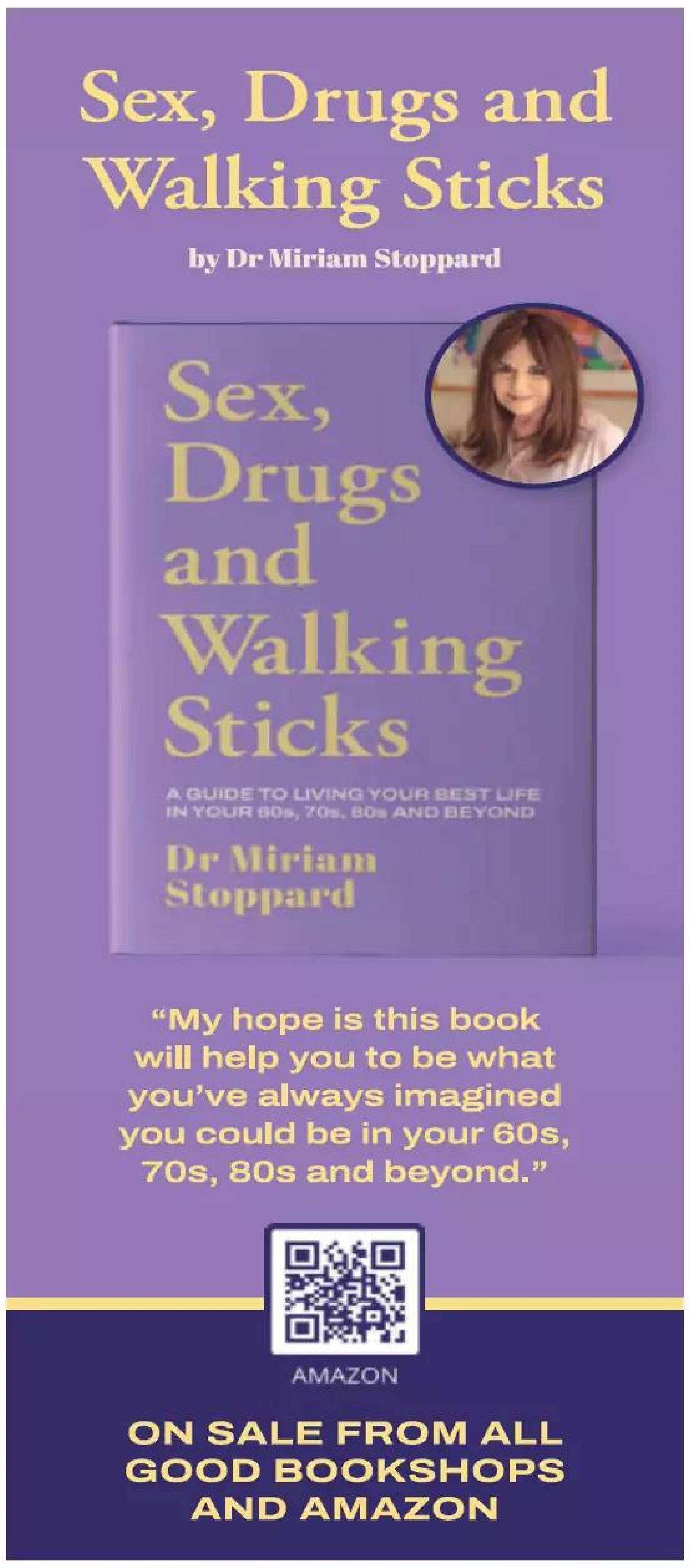
The statement of reasons for deciding to grant development consent, which has been prepared by the Secretary of State under section 116 of the 2008 Act and regulation 31(2) of the 2017 Regulations, containing the content of the decision, the requirements imposed in connection with the development, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision is based including relevant information about the participation of the public, a description of the main features to avoid, reduce and offset any major adverse effects of the development, is published on the Planning Inspectorate's website: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010139

The statement of reasons contains the information required by regulation 30(2) including information regarding the right to challenge the decision and the procedures for doing so.

Hard copies of the decision documentation will also be available to inspect at the Planning Inspectorate's offices (by appointment using the contact details below): The Planning Inspectorate, National Infrastructure Directorate, Temple Quay House, Bristol BS1 6PN.

To make an appointment for inspection of the documents contact the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000 or email NIEnquiries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Copies of the Secretary of State's decision letter and the text of the Order can be obtained by writing or sending an e-mail to the Planning Inspectorate. No charge will be made for this service.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by Dr Miriam Stoppard
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Racing

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Weekend jump cards are in the balance

By **David Yates**

JUMP racing makes its welcome return to Britain today – but the weather continues to threaten the weekend action.

No problems are reported ahead of this afternoon's jumps meetings at Ffos Las and Taunton.

But tomorrow's cards at Exeter (4pm) and Huntingdon (9am) are subject to inspections today and the frost has also accounted for Saturday's programme at Wetherby.

Groundstaff at Kempton, due to stage the Coral Lanzarote Hurdle on Saturday, will assess the condition of the track at 2pm today and clerk of the course Barney Clifford, below, said: "We're still frozen.

"I need a big improvement today and tomorrow."

Warwick's Nessie Chanter is set to inspect the course tomorrow to determine the fate of the William Hill Half A Mill Classic Chase meeting.

"We have a precipitation forecast for Thursday night. We don't want it to turn to snow," said Chanter.

PETER NAUGHTON'S HORSE RACING TIPS

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FIT-AGAIN KOPEK BACK ON COURSE

Arkle hope in 'great spirits'

By **David Yates**

WILLIE MULLINS is "over the moon" with Leopardstown Christmas absentee Kopek Des Bordes as he prepares last year's Supreme Novices' Hurdle hero for the Dublin Racing Festival.

The six-year-old was due to take on Grade 1 opposition on Boxing Day after making a winning debut under Paul Townend at Navan in November.

A setback forced Kopek Des Bordes to be scratched, but his owner Charlie McCarthy said "everything is hunky dory" ahead of a tilt at the top-level Irish Arkle Novice Chase on January 31.

"He's back galloping, he's entered for the Dublin Racing Festival, and he's in great spirits," said McCarthy.

"He has three weeks to the Dublin Festival and everything is going to plan – everything is hunky dory.

"It was a loose chip, a slight infection set in and it knocked him back for about 10 days.

"But he was always on the walker and he's back doing everything.

"They are over the moon with him."

Kopek Des Bordes is William Hill's 7-4 second favourite – Lulamba heads the Leeds firm's betting at 6-4 – for Cheltenham's Arkle Challenge Trophy in March after scoring by 13 lengths on his chasing bow for Mullins, left.

"Paul was pleased with his jumping," added McCarthy. "He said, 'Once he saw a fence he wants to get at it, but he respected it once he got at it.'"

❒ STEVE DE'LEMOS paid tribute to "a once-in-a-lifetime" horse as he announced the death, at the age of seven, of Live In The Dream, 28-1 winner of the 2023 Nunthorpe Stakes at York.

SPEED KOP Kopek Des Bordes won last year's Supreme Novices' Hurdle but is now chasing

Brown Advisory

1.00 17 JANUARY MEETING NOVICES' HURDLE
£5,446 (Class 4) 2m 3f 1yds (7 declared)

1	75-512	**KAPITEIN KOOL (52)** Seamus Mullins 5 11-12	**J Best**	113
2	3/70-P5	**BADENTAGGART (23)** J Scott 7 11-5	**L Williams**	92
3	2-P64L3	**BRIGHT LEGEND (74) (F)** Faye Bramley 6 11-5	**Isabelle Ryder(7)**	★127
4	461-2P	● **CALVINO (52)** P Nicholls 6 11-5	**H Cobden**	118
5	B/1	**FANE COURT (47)** B Lund 8 11-5	**H Kimber**	–
6		**FOREST HILLS (F175)** C J Gray 5 11-5	**J M Davies**	–
7	SU5-15	**SIOUX FALLS (48)** E Williams 6 11-5	**C Ring**	102

BLINKERS: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 2 Bright Legend, 5-2 Kapitein Kool, 11-4 Calvino, 8 Sioux Falls, Fane Court, 33 Forest Hills, 66 Badentaggart.

1.30 SPORTING CLUBS DAY MAIDEN HURDLE (DIV 1)
£5,446 (4) 2m 104yds (10)

1	490	**ARNIE MOON (34)** J Tickle 6 11-8	**Taylor Fisher**	69
2	31-2	**CONSTANTINIAN (66)** O Signy 6 11-8	**G Sheehan**	96
3	19-3L0	**HARD STARE (23)** A Honeyball 6 11-8	**B Godfrey**	79
4	2L-70	**JAFFA CAKE (34)** B Pauling 6 11-8	**B R Jones**	90
5	544173	**ONLYFORFRANKIE (29)** A Ralph 6 11-8	**J J Burke**	★116
6	6-L	**QUINTA BRIGADA (93)** E Williams 5 11-8	**C Ring**	–
7		**TROOPER (F257)** T R George 6 11-8	**C Gethings**	–
8	22	**VICTORS SPIRIT (F24)** N King 4 11-4	**J Quinlan**	–
9	2-P	**GALACTIC PRINCESS (9)** Daisy Hitchins 5 11-1	**R David(7)**	–
10	P	● **BABYKEN (74)** P Nicholls 4 10-9	**H Cobden**	–

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 10 HOOD: No. 9.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Onlyforfrankie, 3 Constantinian, 5 Babyken, 7 Victors Spirit, 10 Trooper, Quinta Brigada, 33 Hard Stare, Jaffa Cake, 50 Others.

2.00 SPORTING CLUBS DAY MAIDEN HURDLE (DIV 2)
£5,446 (4) 2m 104yds (10)

1		**ANTHRACITE (F626)** N Mulholland 5 11-8	**B Harris(3)**	–
2	92-13	**CREST OF STARS (38)** A Honeyball 5 11-8	**S Twiston-Davies**	103
3	L	**DINO MOON (48)** E Williams 5 11-8	**C Ring**	–
4	0	**MARHABA MILLION (28)** S Hosie 5 11-8	**H Kimber**	55
5	FFP7P5	**MONSUN CLIMATE (22)** A Ralph 5 11-8	**C Gethings**	106
6	PP-12LP	**BEE'S KISS (21)** J Frost 6 11-1	**C Iles(5)**	36
7	8-756	**LYDEARD GIRL (28)** K Woollacott 5 11-1	**B Godfrey**	98
8	44	**EXPLODE (22)** Faye Bramley 4 10-9	**K Brogan**	102
9	22	● **POURQUOI PAS PAPA (34) (S)** P Nicholls 4 10-9	**H Cobden**	★120
10		**I'LL GIVE IT A GO (F254)** I Williams 4 10-2	**R T Dunne**	–

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 4 CHEEK PIECES: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 4-5 Pourquoi Pas Papa, 3 Crest Of Stars, 5 Explode, 14 Monsun Climate, 25 Dino Moon, Anthracite, I'll Give It A Go, 33 Lydeard Girl, 100 Others.

THE SCOUT

1.00	Calvino
1.30	Babyken
2.00	Pourquoi Pas Papa
2.30	Irish Chorus
3.00	Breezethroughlife
3.30	Unexpected Party
4.00	Broomfield Gale

2.30 NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (GBB RACE)
£7,024 (4) 2m 12yds (6)

1	3334-2L	**HYPOTENUS (22)** J Tickle 7 12-2	**Taylor Fisher**	113
2	ULF4-41	● **IRISH CHORUS (29) (D)** A King 7 11-10	**T Bellamy**	★114
3	322234	**JUGGERNAUT (49)** A Honeyball 7 11-7	**S Twiston-Davies**	112
4	23P/L-8P	**BALLYBEEN (50)** M Sheppard 10 10-11	**S Sheppard**	72
5	22264-L	**O'GRADY'S HILL (36)** S-J Davies 7 10-9	**J Best**	–
6	4/L48-PP	**SENOR DIAZ (21)** J Frost 7 10-2	**C Iles(5)**	–

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 4.

SP FORECAST: 11-10 Irish Chorus, 5-2 Juggernaut, 5 Hypotenus, 8 O'Grady's Hill, 16 Ballybeen, 33 Senor Diaz.

3.00 LANDLORD'S RACEDAY HCAP HURDLE
£7,816 (3) 2m 3f 1yds (10)

1	4-L3713	**BRAVE KNIGHT (62)** P Nicholls 6 12-2	**F Keighley(7)**	★129
2	16-1L38	**BLUEGRASS (32)** S Edmunds 7 11-10	**H Reed**	127
3	60-6L32	**AMERICAN SNIPER (28) (C)** D Pipe 8 11-10	**R Corcoran(7)**	128
4	14L-581	**CELTIC ART (28) (C&D)** J Scott 9 11-8	**L Williams**	124
5	11-6891	**BENVOY (17)** Miss J Davis 5 11-5	**G Sheehan**	123
6	P-3152	● **BREEZETHROUGHLIFE (26)** N King 5 11-2	**J Quinlan**	123
7	6L-U134	**FIGHT MY FIRE (34)** J Tizzard 5 11-0	**B J Powell**	121
8	123077	**TIME INTERVAL (19) (D)** David Dennis 8 10-11	**T Bellamy**	126
9	34-3934	**HIM MALAYA (28) (C&D)** P Nicholls 7 10-9	**Miss Olive Nicholls(5)**	125
10	231F-57	**ZHANG FEI (45)** F O'Brien 8 10-6	**Fern O'Brien(5)**	122

BLINKERS: Nos. 3, 4 VISOR: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 8.

SP FORECAST: 4 Celtic Art, 9-2 American Sniper, 5 Brave Knight, Breezethroughlife, Benvoy, 10 Fight My Fire, Him Malaya, 16 Bluegrass, 20 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Harry Cobden 33% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** P Nicholls 32% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.30 Babyken (tongue strap), Galactic Princess (hood), 3.00 Time Interval (cheek pieces), 3.30 Dorset Dazzler (hood, tongue strap), Dorset Diamond (cheek pieces, tongue strap), Fan De Blues (wind surgery). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 2.00 Crest Of Stars, Explode, Pourquoi Pas Papa. 3.00 Brave Knight(hcp hdl). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Bluegrass** (3.00) 161 miles.

TAUNTON RACINGTV

3.30 GEOFFREY BOSLEY OPEN HUNTERS' CHS
£3,387 (5) 2m 5f 150yds (9)

1	4LL975-	**GUY (273)** Mrs M Cookson 11 12-6	**Mr S Scott(7)**	–
2	111162	**STUMPS OR SLIPS (86) (D)** Edward William Walker 9 12-6	**Mr Z Baker**	110
3	225-52P	● **UNEXPECTED PARTY (32)** D Skelton 11 12-6	**Miss H Palin(3)**	★142
4	PP25-31	**A JET OF OUR OWN (39)** Mrs N Sheppard 9 12-2	**Mr F Philipson-Stow(7)**	123
5	2P54-3U	**JUST LOOSE CHANGE (25)** Darren McAlinden 9 12-2	**Mr M McIntyre(3)**	93
6	PP3-511	**DORSET DAZZLER (25)** Mrs Bartlett 9 11-12	**Mr S Lee(7)**	–
7	73P-222	**DORSET DIAMOND (25)** Mrs Bartlett 10 11-12	**Mr H Crow(5)**	–
8	18P6/34-	**FAN DE BLUES (282)** Miss Henton 11 11-12	**Mr D Wiliams(7)**	95
9	25-P156	**FINISHER (25)** Miss L Bartlett 11 11-12	**Mr J Shaw(7)**	–

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 4, 7, 9 HOOD: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 4-7 Unexpected Party, 5 A Jet Of Our Own, 8 Stumps Or Slips, 12 Fan De Blues, 14 Dorset Dazzler, 25 Just Loose Change, Guy, 66 Others.

4.00 DRAGONBET MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE
£4,753 (5) 2m 104yds (9)

1	1350	**BEST NIGHT (34)** D Pipe 5 12-0	**R Corcoran(7)**	90
2	1-98163	**GETMETOTHEMOON (23) (D)** A Honeyball 7 11-13	**C Bament(7)**	99
3	420	**GETAROSE (28)** E Williams 5 11-9	**C Ring**	91
4	23/44-63	**EAST END GIRL (19) (D)** A Ralph 9 11-7	**C Gethings**	95
5	PR-1237	● **BROOMFIELD GALE (34)** Daisy Hitchins 8 11-6	**R David(7)**	★103
6	0431-12	**BLUENOSE BELLE (45)** R Phillips 8 11-2	**F Lambert(3)**	96
7	P-3176P	**RULER OF THE RIVER (11) (D)** F O'Brien 6 10-9	**T Broughton(5)**	99
8	4L-5866	**JUKEBOX ANNIE (42) (C&D)** Claire Hitch 7 10-9	**Mr Jack Stenhouse(7)**	101
9	PL9-85	**L'INOUBLIABLE (20)** K Bishop 5 10-6	**J Best**	84

VISOR: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 7 CHEEK PIECES: No. 9.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Getmetothemoon, 3 Bluenose Belle, 5 East End Girl, 8 Getarose, 10 Jukebox Annie, 12 L'inoubliable, Best Night, 16 Others.

STABLE SWITCH: 1.00 **Fane Court** from Craig Kileff to B Lund, **Forest Hills** from B Millman to C J Gray. 1.30 **Quinta Brigada** from Colm Ryan in Ireland to E Williams, **Trooper** from Christian Recke to T R George. 2.00 **I'll Give It A Go** from James Owen to I Williams. 3.30 **Guy** from N & W Twiston-Davies to Mrs M Cookson, **Stumps Or Slips** from O Murphy to Edward William Walker.

RESULTS

LINGFIELD: Standard

12.35–ARC ZOOSVE (R Havlin, 15-8 fav) 1; Taranjerine (10-1) 2; Tuba (7-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 10 ran. hd, ½l. (N King). Tote: £2.88; pl £1.40, £3.00, £1.60. exacta: £24.20. tricast: £64.00. trifecta: £176.50. CSF: £23.81. Non-runners: Coisty, Queensland Boy.

1.05–ACCRUAL (R Scott, 3-1) 1; No Return (66-1) 2; Silky Wilkie (9-4 fav) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 1¾l, ns. (D Loughnane). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.30, £4.50, £1.80. exacta: £122.40. tricast: £535.29. trifecta: £526.10. CSF: £148.91.

1.35–GOGO YUBARI (C Fallon, 2-1 fav) 1; The Defiant (4-1) 2; Rajeteriat (16-5) 3. H'cap 5 ran. 2¼l, 1l. (A Carroll). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.40, £1.60. exacta: £13.90. trifecta: £24.20. CSF: £10.06. Non-runner: It's Showtime.

2.05–SPACE INVASION (C Shepherd, 6-4 2nd fav) 1; Freda (33-1) 2; Lisa Joy (evens fav) 3. 8 ran. ½l, 1l. (R Hannon). Tote: £2.50; pl £1.10, £5.90, £1.10. exacta: £49.10. trifecta: £137.30. CSF: £51.56. Non-runners: Nuptown Girl, Peas And Queues, Sovereign Wealth.

2.35–GILES GLORY (C Fallon, 6-5 fav) 1; Athenian Spirit (12-1) 2; Frankali (14-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 1¼, 2l. (J Parr). Tote: £2.40; pl £1.40, £3.10, £3.50. exacta: £20.10. tricast: £148.12. trifecta: £152.20. CSF: £18.76.

3.05–BLUE EMPRESS (Harry Vigors, 11-4) 1; Sanditon (15-8 jt fav) 2; Nubough (14-1) 2; H'cap 7 ran. 1¼l, dht. (A Watson; 15-8 jtfav Naval Ensign). Tote: Blue Empress £3.80; pl Blue Empress £1.50, Nubough £2.00. exacta: Blue Empress, Sanditon £5.00, Blue Empress, Nubough £17.00. trifecta: Blue Empress, Sanditon, Nubough £26.50, Blue Empress, Nubough, Sanditon £52.20. CSF: Blue Empress, Sanditon £4.21, Blue Empress, Nubough £19.58.

3.35–COMBUSTION (J Haynes, 8-11 fav) 1; Twirler (22-1) 2; Woodhay Whisper (9-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. ¾l, ½l. (C Banham). Tote: £1.66; pl £1.50, £5.20. exacta: £14.20. tricast: £35.23. trifecta: £43.80. CSF: £17.04. Non-runner: Alshimali. Alshimali| Rule 4 applies to All Bets, deduct 10p in the pound

Placepot: £16.30
Quadpot: £5.60

KEMPTON: Standard to slow

5.00–MADMAN (A Voikhansky, 3-1 2nd fav) 1; Filly Foden (11-4 fav) 2; Stay Sharp (14-1) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 1¾l, hd. (T Ward). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.50, £1.30, £4.00. exacta: £12.20. tricast: £105.41. trifecta: £123.00. CSF: £11.70. Non-runner: Espona Bay.

5.30–FREE YOUR SPIRIT (D J Murphy, 5-6 fav) 1; Je Suis Celebre (6-1) 2; Blue Moon Warrior (10-1) 3. 8 ran. hd, 3½l. (R Hughes). Tote: £1.84; pl £1.10, £2.00, £2.30. exacta: £7.50. trifecta: £39.80. CSF: £7.20. Non-runner: Sands End.

6.00–BILLY MILL (L Edmunds, 5-1) 1; Maid In Chelsea (10-3 2nd fav) 2; Danehill Star (16-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 1l, 3½l. (B Millman; 3-1 fav Up The Anti). Tote: £6.00; pl £2.00, £1.60, £3.40. exacta: £22.30. tricast: £250.32. trifecta: £220.80. CSF: £22.30. Non-runners: Lerwick, Token Gesture.

6.30–THE LOST KING (N Currie, 12-1) 1; Popmaster (13-8 fav) 2; Heathcliff (9-2) 3. H'cap 7 ran. nk, hd. (A Balding). Tote: £13.00; pl £3.70, £1.70. exacta: £39.70. tricast: £105.86. trifecta: £222.10. CSF: £32.88. Non-runner: Gallant.

7.00–PORT ROAD (T Heard, 9-1) 1; Frostmagic (3-1) 2; I Am Me (66-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. ½l, 1¾. (S Dow; 13-8 fav Rajinoora). Tote: £10.00; pl £1.30, £7.80, £2.10. exacta: £33.20. tricast: £1345.77. trifecta: £911.20. CSF: £34.74. Non-runner: Caph Star.

7.30–BARENBOIM (P-L Jamin, 3-1) 1; Sax Appeal (5-4 fav) 2; Vice President (14-1) 3. H'cap 6 ran. ½l, 1¼l. (T Dascombe). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.90, £1.10. exacta: £7.70. trifecta: £50.30. CSF: £7.18. Non-runner: Bashful Boy.

8.00–SONNERIE POWER (L Morris, 18-1) 1; Fiddlers Green (4-1) 2; Voix De Bocelli (25-1) 3. H'cap 12 ran. 6l, 6l. (D Killahena & G McPherson; 16-5 fav Saahir). Tote: £22.70; pl £4.80, £1.70, £5.00. exacta: £137.40. tricast: £1868.53. trifecta: £849.20. CSF: £91.30. Non-runners: Egoiste, Phaedra.

Jackpot: Not won, pool of £5,011.59 carried over.

Placepot: £65.40
Quadpot: £27.50

12.40 DRAGONBET NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE)
£5,446 (Cl 4)1m 7f 182yds (11 declared)

1 6-P1 BLOWERS (21) N Hawke 6 11-12 .... Miss E Herbison(7) 116
2 2/11-1 ● STARZAND (72) (C) P Hobbs & J White 6 11-12 Sean Houlihan 117
3 1-3 BOSSMAN JACK (49) D Skelton 6 11-5 .... H Skelton ★128
4 5L- COMMANDER TEDDY (407) Katy Price 6 11-5 Charlie Price –
5 44- EMERALD BREEZE (298) Dominic Elsworth 6 11-5 K Woods –
6 0 SUN AND RAIN (44) E Williams 5 11-5 .... J Bowen –
7 4L HALF PINT DAISY (30) C Boultbee-Brooks 7 10-12 R Patrick 90
8 7 MAN MAID (23) H Dickin 5 10-12 .... Miss M Bevan(7) 99
9 07 REST IS THE BEST (30) H Dickin 5 10-12 Tabitha Worsley(3) 82
10 3-8 SILVER GALE (240) Katy Price 5 10-12 ... Shane Quinlan(3) –
11 1- SPRING SERENADE (361) K Bishop 7 10-12 .... L Scott(3) –

SP FORECAST: 11-8 Bossman Jack, 7-4 Starzand, 7-2 Blowers, 14 Spring Serenade, 16 Emerald Breeze, 33 Sun And Rain, 50 Silver Gale, 66 Man Maid, 100 Others.

2025: No corresponding meeting.

1.10 DRAGONBET MAIDEN HURDLE (GBB RACE)
£5,446 (4) 2m 4f (13)

1 P BIG LOU (19) J & R Flint 5 11-7 .... E Collier(5) –
2 22/22 BOBBY'S NELSON (30) P Hobbs & J White 7 11-7 Sean Houlihan 123
3 P-L EASTSTONE BUCK'S (39) V Williams 5 11-7 .... C Deutsch 67
4 2/1-3 GIANTSGRAVE (51) D Skelton 6 11-7 .... H Skelton 120
5 1-L JACKPOT CAUVELIERE (50) (F) Harry Derham 7 11-7 Paul O'Brien 106
6 1-4 JURY'S IN (72) (T) S Edmunds 6 11-7 .... C Hammond 116
7 1/2-3 KARMA POLICE (39) Harry Derham 6 11-7 .... B Sutton(5) 96
8 F6/10-98 MANHATTAN VALLEY (29) Christian Williams 6 11-7 J Tudor 84
9 23R2-32 ● OFF THE JURY (20) M Bowen 7 11-7 .... J Bowen ★135
10 31-P4 THE MOONLIGHT MAN (33) J Tickle 7 11-7 . C Pritchard(3) 103
11 645-72 TIMES ARE GREEN (33) E Lavelle 6 11-7 .... C J Todd 116
12 2-9 TOM DESJY (32) W Greatrex 6 11-7 .... R Patrick 73
13 4-4 TRADE WAR (60) E Williams 6 11-7 .... S Bowen 105

CHEEK PIECES: No. 1.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 4, 5, 6.

SP FORECAST: 2 Giantsgrave, 3 Off The Jury, 7-2 Bobby's Nelson, 8 Jackpot Cauveliere, 10 Jury's In, 12 Times Are Green, 16 Karma Police, 20 Trade War, 33 Others.

1.40 DRAGONBET NOVICES' LIMITED HCAP CHS
£7,473 (3) 2m 3f 83yds (4)

1 33/2-17P POUR LES FILLES (60) M Bowen 8 11-10 .... S Bowen –
2 12/11-1 ● JUBY BALL (39) E Williams 7 11-9 .... Jonjo O'Neill Jr 129
3 4/2-LLL LARGY BELTER (19) D Skelton 6 11-4 .... H Skelton ★133
4 122/8P0- ALENTEJO (462) N Henderson 7 11-1 .... J Bowen –

BLINKERS: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 4 HOOD: No. 3.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 4, 2, 1.

SP FORECAST: 11-10 Juby Ball, 11-4 Largy Belter, 4 Pour Les Filles, 6 Alentejo.

THE SCOUT

12.40 STARZAND (nb)
1.10 Off The Jury
1.40 Juby Ball
2.10 Hot Goddess
2.40 Itseemslikeit
3.10 Lady Henrietta
3.40 El Gavilan

2.10 DRAGONBET HANDICAP HURDLE
£4,040 (4) 2m 4f (11)

1 42LL-FF LEMONCELLO (22) V Williams 7 12-2 .... C Deutsch 60
2 1P3P-61 FRESH SPECULATION (39) (C&D) H Daly 8 12-1 .... D Bass 111
3 3-7P AARON (33) R Stephens 5 11-13 .... Sean Houlihan 102
4 12-13 THERE RUNS MARY (39) (C) O Murphy 6 11-13 .... S Bowen 101
5 73/534-3 ● HOT GODDESS (26) M Keighley 6 11-11 . Harry Atkins(7) 104
6 1626-L1 OUR DYLAN (49) (D) K Woollacott 10 11-9 .... J Bowen 107
7 22P35/ BLUELLA BRESIL (654) (F) J Snowden 8 11-6 J A Anderson(3) –
8 P20-P3P PACHACUTI (33) (D) D Pipe 9 11-6 .... J Tudor ★118
9 L2LL-L6 I AM SPIDER MAN (9) (D) D Hamer 9 11-6 ... C Pritchard(3) 105
10 567-LP2 COLONIAL EMPIRE (28) (C) T Vaughan 9 11-6 Mr E Vaughan(7) 106
11 4FPP-02 MUMBLES (48) E Williams 8 10-13 .... E Collier(5) 113

VISOR: Nos. 8, 10 TONGUE STRAP: No. 7 HOOD: No. 9.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 10, 2, 1, 11, 6, 8, 4.

SP FORECAST: 4 There Runs Mary, 9-2 Fresh Speculation, 6 Our Dylan, 7 Hot Goddess, Colonial Empire, 8 Lemoncello, 10 Mumbles, Bluella Bresil, 14 Others.

2.40 DRAGONBET HCAP CHASE (GBB RACE)
£7,473 (3) 2m 7f 177yds (8)

1 151-6L3 HUNTER LEGEND (22) V Williams 9 12-0 .... C Deutsch 132
2 1115P-P STRACKAN (61) H Daly 7 11-10 .... D Bass –
3 417/P6-1 ● ITSEEMSLIKEIT (30) (D) D Pipe 7 11-7 .... J Tudor 130
4 2P/2PL-7 HURRICANE HIGHWAY (43) E Williams 8 11-4 .... S Bowen –
5 P/1LPP-P KARUMA GREY (40) (C) D Hamer 8 11-1 .... L Harrison –
6 8LF3-63 ASTRONOMIC VIEW (34) Mrs S Gardner 9 10-10 Sean Houlihan 133
7 32/LL2-2 NOT SURE (243) (D) Kerry Lee 10 10-8 .... C O'Farrell ★134
8 2U5-83P STELLAR STREAM (19) K Woollacott 9 10-2. C Pritchard(3) 127

BLINKERS: No. 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 6, 7.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 6, 1, 4, 3, 5, 7, 8, 2.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Itseemslikeit, 5-2 Hunter Legend, 6 Astronomic View, 8 Not Sure, 12 Hurricane Highway, Strackan, Stellar Stream, 25 Karuma Grey.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Soft. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Sean Bowen 23% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** E Williams 10% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.10 Big Lou (cheek pieces), 1.40 Alentejo (blinkers, tongue strap, wind surgery), 2.10 Bluella Bresil (wind surgery), Pachacuti (visor), 2.40 Karuma Grey (cheek pieces), 3.10 Benny Baloo (cheek pieces), 3.40 Port Or Starboard (blinkers). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.10 Giantsgrave. 2.10 Lemoncello(hcp ch), There Runs Mary. 2.40 Hunter Legend(hcp ch). 3.40 Getaway With You(hcp hdl). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Jury's In** (1.10) 210 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.40 **Spring Serenade** from Alan Ahern to K Bishop. 1.40 **Alentejo** from Lageneste Macaire to N Henderson, **Pour Les Filles** from G Elliott in Ireland to M Bowen. 2.10 **Bluella Bresil** from B Pauling to J Snowden.

FFOS LAS SKYSPORTSRACING

3.10 NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,248 (5) 2m 5f 192yds (10)

1 97-25 PIPAS LESCRIBAA (30) H Dickin 7 11-12 Tabitha Worsley(3) ★99
2 6B70-32 WELCHESTON WARRIER (13) C Boultbee-Brooks 6 11-11 R Patrick 95
3 6L-LL73 OSTERBERG (20) M Keighley 6 11-10 .... Harry Atkins(7) 92
4 F-50076 BOMBAY PETE (33) Christian Williams 5 11-9 .... J Tudor 87
5 P384-43 LEECH (50) E Williams 7 11-5 .... E Collier(5) 97
6 2383-22 NEDZOR (42) Henry Oliver 7 11-3 .... N Fox(5) 86
7 0322F1 ● LADY HENRIETTA (29) (S) B Pauling 6 11-2 .... S Bowen 98
8 53/32-55 BENNY BALOO (50) E Williams 9 10-10 Miss E Williams(7) –
9 3/6PP-P4 DANCE IN THE PARK (23) M Bowen 8 10-9 ... S Fenelon(5) 89
10 26225/3 GINDERELLA (42) T Vaughan 9 10-8 .... C O'Farrell –

BLINKERS: No. 9 CHEEK PIECES: No. 8.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 7, 5.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Lady Henrietta, 9-2 Welcheston Warrier, 7 Leech, 8 Osterberg, Ginderella, Nedzor, Dance In The Park, 14 Benny Baloo, Bombay Pete, 16 Pipas Lescribaa.

3.40 DRAGONBET HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,248 (5) 1m 7f 182yds (8)

1 521112 GETAWAY WITH YOU (20) D Killahena & G McPherson 8 12-0 N Slatter(3) 97
2 25-P072 ● EL GAVILAN (7) C Boultbee-Brooks 5 11-11 .... R Patrick 97
3 734-P4P COPPER COVE (78) Dominic Elsworth 9 11-11 .... K Woods 100
4 9/4111-P DAANY (19) (D) J Tickle 9 11-8 .... C Pritchard(3) –
5 243779 GAVIN (12) (C&D) M Bowen 8 11-8 .... S Bowen ★103
6 844/3-42 OUT OF FOCUS (35) E Williams 8 11-7 .... Isabel Williams 98
7 4254-96 PORT OR STARBOARD (29) B J Llewellyn 9 11-6 Sean Houlihan 95
8 PPP/P-L3 MAN OH MAN (42) (T) D Summersby 7 11-0 .... B Carver 97

BLINKERS: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3, 4, 1.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 El Gavilan, 3 Getaway With You, Out Of Focus, 5 Man Oh Man, 12 Gavin, 16 Copper Cove, 25 Daany, Port Or Starboard.

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) E Lavelle 62% (2 wins and 3 places from 8 runners), S Edmunds 60% (1/2/5), Joey Ramsden 57% (1/3/7), O Murphy 55% (7/9/29), D Skelton 52% (7/6/25), P Nicholls 52% (5/7/23), James Owen 51% (7/11/35), C Boultbee-Brooks 50% (1/2/6).
IN-FORM JOCKEYS Robert Dunne 75% (1 wins and 2 places from 4 runners), Lorcan Williams 67% (1/3/6), Sean Bowen 52% (8/8/31), Charlie Hammond 50% (1/2/6), Pat Cosgrave 50% (2/4/12), Sean Levey 50% (2/6/16), Stan Sheppard 50% (2/2/8), Tom Bellamy 50% (1/4/10).

WORLD OF SPORT

Recharged Lew has New Year resolution

BY **DANIEL MOXON**

FORMULA ONE

LEWIS HAMILTON declared "the time for change is now" in a self-motivating birthday social media post.

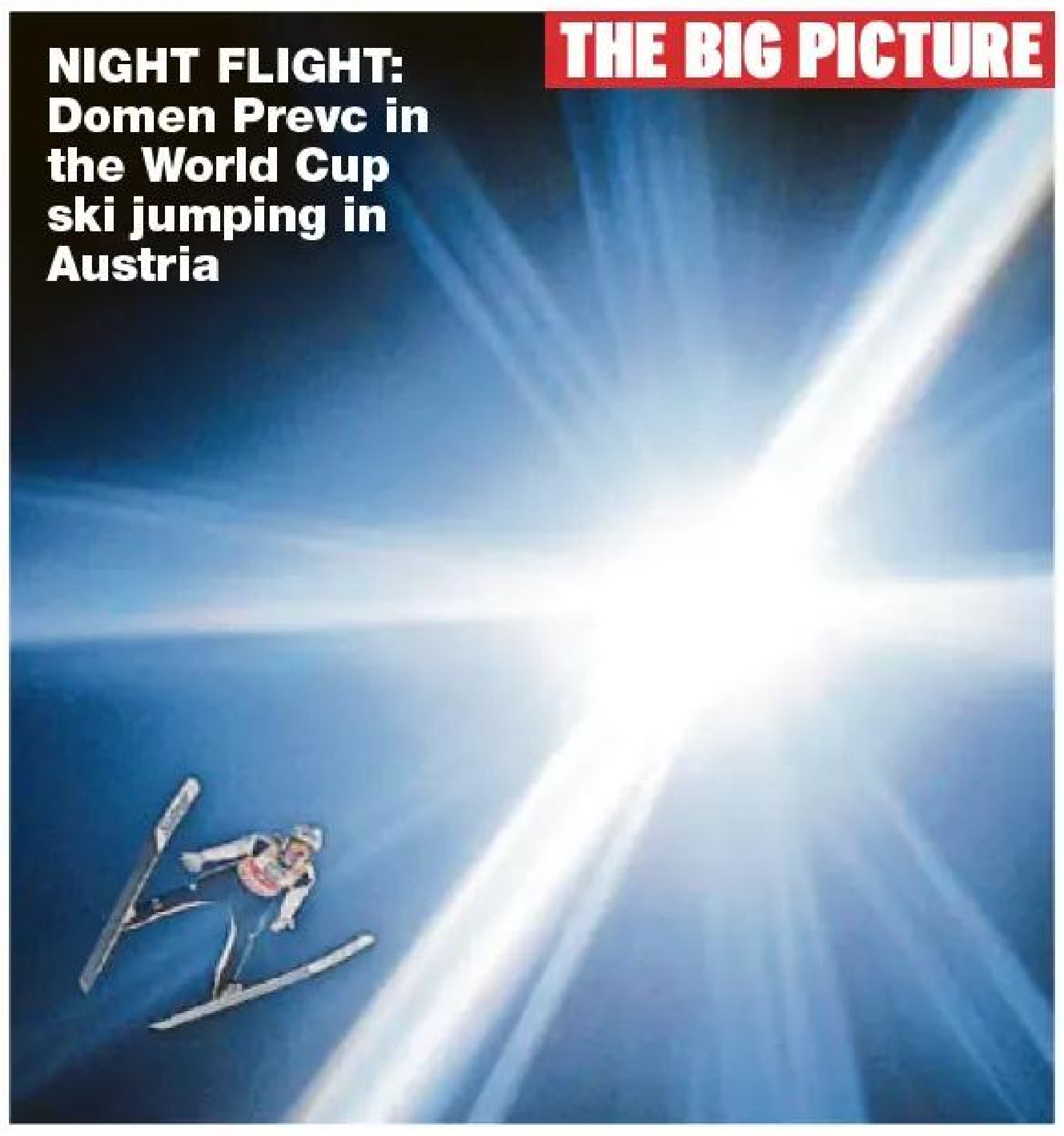
The seven-time champion turned 41 yesterday and revealed what he had been up to since his miserable first year at Ferrari ended last month.

Having endured a full Formula One season without standing on a podium for the first time, Hamilton swapped his race car for a snowboard and hit the slopes. He was also pictured on a motorbike and said he has made a point of switching off after a challenging 12 months.

HAMILTON

He said: "Time with family and friends replenishing with rest and good laughs has been everything I needed after a very draining year.

"The time for change is now. Starting new routines, leaving behind unwanted patterns and working on growth."


THE BIG PICTURE

NIGHT FLIGHT: Domen Prevc in the World Cup ski jumping in Austria

5.30 RESTRICTED MAIDEN STAKES (GBB RACE)
£4,449 (Class 5) 6f (12 declared)

1 (12) 233522- GENNADIUS (121) R Hannon 4 10-2 .... S M Levey ★70
2 (5) 55- SPECIAL ACCLAIM (44) J Channon 4 10-2 .... F Marsh 56
3 (9) 4- ● EVENEPOEL (22) A Watson 3 9-0 .... L Morris 60
4 (1) L8- ROCCOBEAR (77) J R Jenkins 3 9-0 .... M Ghiani 62
5 (11) 524- ARISHKA'S DREAM (26) D & C Kubler 3 8-12 ... R Hornby 65
6 (6) 3- RAWSON (27) M Appleby 3 8-12 .... A Rawlinson 51
7 (2) 3- SPARKSMITH (24) (F) J Ferguson 3 8-12 .... J Peate 62
8 (7) L2- ALLEGRINO (50) (F) A Balding 3 8-9 .... C Hutchinson 67
9 (8) 36234- HAVANA JAG (9) D Cunha 3 8-9 .... C Fallon 66
10 (3) 75- IN DENIAL (26) M Loughnane 3 8-9 .... E Greatrex 55
11 (10) NAUTICAL SKY J Ferguson 3 8-9 .... T Heard –
12 (4) PREFERRED J Tate 3 8-7 .... S D Bowen –

SP FORECAST: 3 Allegrino, 4 Evenepoel, 5 Gennadius, 6 Arishka's Dream, 7 Havana Jag, 10 Sparksmith, 14 Rawson, 16 Preferred, 20 Others.

2025: Em Four 3-8-12, Alistair Rawlinson 12-1 (J Osborne), drawn (2), 7 ran.

6.00 CURRY AND RACING CLASSIFIED STAKES
£3,664 (6) 6f (12)

1 (11) 42555/0- DEQUINTO (33) A Carroll 7 9-9 .... Jack Doughty 24
2 (4) 25568-2 DUBAI MAGIC (6) (F) M Crawley 4 9-9 .... L Morris 58
3 (9) 777680- FLICKA'S GIRL (17) M Attwater 4 9-9 .... P Bradley 55
4 (5) 4L9/003- ● ISLA BELLA (17) (D) (S) Joey Ramsden 4 9-9 L Edmunds 59
5 (6) L64LLL- KAMBERLEIGH (24) Darryll Holland 4 9-9 .... S M Levey 57
6 (7) 277560- LITTLE MISS MAGIC (17) P Chamings 5 9-9 Isobelle Chalmers(7) 50
7 (12) 51L490- LYNWOOD LAD (117) (D) G & J Moore 6 9-9 T P Queally 58
8 (8) LR6870- MAGIC FLUKE (84) (D) J R Jenkins 5 9-9 .... J Peate 46
9 (2) 633588- MAMMY (17) (C) R Cook & J Bridger 5 9-9 .... K O'Neill 60
10 (1) 5/L2L85- MY GENGHIS (38) (D) A Carroll 7 9-9 .... W Carson ★61
11 (10) 364683- POETIC JACK (70) (C,D) R Cowell 6 9-9 .... M Ghiani 51
12 (3) 0LL9L2- WORLD OF DARCY (17) (D) J Ryan 5 9-9 D J Murphy(7) 56

BLINKERS: No. 12 VISOR: Nos. 6, 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 11.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Dubai Magic, 11-4 Isla Bella, 4 World Of Darcy, 8 My Genghis, 12 Poetic Jack, 14 Lynwood Lad, 25 Little Miss Magic, Flicka's Girl, Dequinto, Mammy, Kamberleigh, 50 Magic Fluke.

2025: My Turn Now 5-9-9, Callum Hutchinson 4-1 (M Attwater), drawn (6), 7 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Marco Ghiani 16% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** S C Williams 13% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 6.00 Little Miss Magic (visor), 7.00 Power Quest (cheek pieces), Filligris (blinkers), 8.30 Noss Mayo (visor), Silkies Sib (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 6.30 Dion Baker(hcp). 7.30 Mumayaz(hcp), Neptune Legend(hcp), Speed Of Maajid(hcp). 8.00 High On Hope(hcp). **DRAW:** Little effect. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Noss Mayo** (8.30) 230 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 5.30 **Roccobear** from C Wallis to J R Jenkins. 8.30 **Beachborough Girl** from Alice Haynes to J & S Birkett.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Newmarket:
SILKIES SIB
(8.30 Chelmsford)
Midlands:
ISLA BELLA
(6.00 Chelmsford)

Cotswolds:
LADY HENRIETTA
(3.10 Ffos Las)
West:
POURQUOI PAS PAPA
(2.00 Taunton)

THE SCOUT

5.30 Evenepoel
6.00 Isla Bella
6.30 ANALYTICAL ENGINE (nap)
7.00 Arenas Del Tiempo
7.30 Speed Of Maajid
8.00 High On Hope
8.30 SILKIES SIB

6.30 UK GARAGE RACEDAY HANDICAP
£3,664 (6) 6f (9)

1 (5) 518742- ROMAN EMPEROR (17) (D,F) J Ryan 5 9-9 D J Murphy(7) 63
2 (3) 312295- SMASHER (22) (D) M Attwater 6 9-8 .... W Carson ★67
3 (6) 479486- DION BAKER (17) M Wigham 7 9-8 .... J F Egan 66
4 (1) 8L1L92- ● ANALYTICAL ENGINE (22) (D) M Murphy 5 9-7 D E Hogan 65
5 (7) 423L05- SIR RODNEYREDBLOOD (22) (C&D) J R Jenkins 9 9-7 M Ghiani 61
6 (2) 87L60-7 GENIUS MISTAKE (2) (T) M Sowersby 4 9-3 M Slater(7) 65
7 (4) 866788- PORT HEDLAND (117) A Carroll 5 9-0 .... Jack Doughty 58
8 (8) 74867-2 TOMMYTWOHOOTS (2) (D) S A Harris 8 9-0 L Edmunds 65
9 (9) 85566/8- DALEY T (26) A Carroll 6 9-0 .... C Fallon 46

BLINKERS: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3, 8 HOOD: No. 7.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Roman Emperor, 3 Analytical Engine, 6 Smasher, 7 Dion Baker, 8 Tommytwohoots, 10 Sir Rodneyredblood, 14 Port Hedland, 20 Daley T, 25 Genius Mistake.

2025: Cut To The Chase 4-9-7, Richard Kingscote 6-4 Fav (A Carroll), drawn (3), 11 ran.

7.00 EASTER FESTIVAL FAMILY DAY HANDICAP
£3,664 (6) 1m 5f 66yds (10)

1 (6) 053548- HALIPHON (49) I Williams 9 9-9 .... E Greatrex 66
2 (7) L55416- ● ARENAS DEL TIEMPO (36) (C&D) J & S Best 8 9-8 S M Levey 61
3 (5) L94L77- HEDONISTA (17) (T) B J Llewellyn 6 9-6 ... C Hutchinson ★67
4 (1) 797- POWER QUEST (17) (F) A Watson 4 9-5 .... L Morris 50
5 (2) 274048- BLOODHOUND (36) S Lycett 6 9-4 .... R Hornby 63
6 (9) 21L585- SMOKEY MALONE (43) (C,F) J & S Birkett 8 9-4 D E Hogan 60
7 (8) 884025- DAMZON (17) A Carroll 7 9-2 .... M Ghiani 65
8 (3) 36LL29- LUMBERJACK (94) M Usher 7 9-0 .... Harry Vigors(7) 63
9 (4) 99/LL7L- FILLIGRIS (24) S Pearce 4 8-11 .... T Heard 52
10 (10) 680/06- NORA BARNACLE (38) D F Davis 4 8-11 ... Georgia Dobie 51

BLINKERS: Nos. 6, 9 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 5, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 4.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Damzon, 7-2 Arenas Del Tiempo, 6 Smokey Malone, Power Quest, 8 Haliphon, 10 Hedonista, 12 Lumberjack, 14 Nora Barnacle, Bloodhound, 33 Filligris.

2025: No corresponding race.

CHELMSFORD RACINGTV

JACKPOT: www.totepoolliveinfo.com

7.30 THE FAIRWOOD BRASSERIE HANDICAP
£4,449 (5) 5f (8)

1 (7) 363610- LEQUINTO (106) (D) A Carroll 9 9-9 .... M Slater(7) 80
2 (8) 643163- MUMAYAZ (20) (D) James Owen 7 9-8 .... P Cosgrave 83
3 (4) 471107- GENERAL ASSEMBLY (21) (C&D) C Hobson 5 9-7 H Davies 81
4 (1) 231266- FIORELLA PRINCESS (21) (C,D) C Wallis 4 9-6 .. R Hornby 82
5 (5) 14L18-3 MERRIMACK (6) (D) S C Williams 5 9-3 . Harry Vigors(7) ★84
6 (2) 72422-2 ● SPEED OF MAAJID (6) (D,F) R Cowell 4 9-3 . M Ghiani 81
7 (3) 6L7L69- DIAMOND DREAMER (17) (C&D) P Chamings 6 9-3 S M Levey 75
8 (6) 604155- NEPTUNE LEGEND (21) James Owen 7 8-9 ... S D Bowen 81

BLINKERS: No. 7 VISOR: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 5, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 6.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Speed Of Maajid, 11-4 Merrimack, 7-2 Mumayaz, 6 Neptune Legend, 10 Lequinto, 16 General Assembly, Fiorella Princess, 25 Others.

2025: Blazes Boylan 4-9-8, Marco Ghiani 13-2 (R Cowell), drawn (7), 8 ran.

8.00 FREE RACING ALL JANUARY HANDICAP
£5,234 (4) 1m (5)

1 (5) 3/60639- PLANTADREAM (22) (D) K Jewell 11 9-9 .... R Havlin 93
2 (3) 2L4631- CHAMPAGNE POWDER (28) (C&D,F) Oliver Cole 4 9-7 C Fallon 82
3 (1) L09B04- NORDIC NORM (8) (D) J R Jenkins 4 9-2 .... J Peate 88
4 (2) 431533- ● HIGH ON HOPE (19) M Appleby 4 9-2 .... H Davies ★94
5 (4) LL0/LLL- UNDER THE SUN (21) (D) G & J Moore 5 8-9 ... T Heard 79

BLINKERS: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 11-8 Champagne Powder, 6-4 High On Hope, 6 Nordic Norm, 7 Plantadream, 66 Under The Sun.

2025: Apiarist 4-9-9, Tom Eaves 11-4 Fav (K Ryan), drawn (2), 16 ran.

8.30 HIRE EXCLUSIVE SPACES HANDICAP
£3,664 (6) 1m 2f (9)

1 (8) 80L051- ● SILKIES SIB (13) (S) James Owen 6 9-9 .... C Fallon ★65
2 (4) 7L6243- BEACHBOROUGH GIRL (35) J & S Birkett 4 9-8. D E Hogan 62
3 (6) 636364- PURE THEORY (24) Stephanie Cassidy 4 9-8. C Shepherd 63
4 (9) 200545- NOSS MAYO (30) (F) (T) E Bethell 4 9-8 .... L Morris 64
5 (5) L57L- SAINT TERRY (22) A Carroll 5 9-1 .... Jack Doughty 62
6 (7) 855LL6- TRACKMAN (24) S Pearce 6 9-0 .... J Mitchell 56
7 (1) 656764- MOND (101) C Wallis 8 9-0 .... R Hornby 59
8 (2) 789959- SHADES OF MAY (31) M Usher 6 9-0 .. Alicia Perkins(7) 53
9 (3) 788970- MOUNT OF GOLD (24) R Cook & J Bridger 4 8-13. K O'Neill 56

VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 2 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 8 HOOD: No. 5.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Silkies Sib, 9-4 Beachborough Girl, 6 Pure Theory, 13-2 Noss Mayo, 10 Trackman, 33 Mond, Saint Terry, Shades Of May, 50 Mount Of Gold.

2025: No corresponding race.

HOOF PRINTS

PART-OWNER Andy Edwards is hoping Saturday's meeting at Warwick will firm up plans for L'Homme Presse to run in Aintree's Grand National in April.

The Venetia Williams-trained 11-year-old, who is entered in the Cheltenham Gold Cup again, hopes to line up in the William Hill Half A Mill Classic Handicap Chase. Edwards said: "We'll see after this race whether the National is realistic."

BY **ADAM HATHAWAY**

RUGBY UNION

SARACENS boss Mark McCall led a no-holds-barred meeting after his side's 36-28 collapse to Leicester on Sunday.

The Londoners face one of the toughest tasks in European rugby when they host Antoine Dupont's Toulouse on Sunday in the Champions Cup and McCall was desperate to clear the air.

The Tigers defeat left McCall spitting about their lack of emotion and he wanted to put things right.

He said: "We've been honest with everybody and everybody has been honest with us.

"When emotionally you are not ready for a big game, which we clearly weren't and which in the end falls on me, it is hugely frustrating and disappointing.

"Talking about it is one thing but doing something about it is another thing."

10 to tackle

1. Who won last year's Qatar Grand Prix in Formula One?
2. **Which European nation won the 2025 Fifa U-17 World Cup final?**
3. Who scored two tries for Gloucester in this season's Prem home win over Harlequins?
4. **Which Test cricket side did Mohammad Sami represent?**
5. Which Norwegian runner won the women's race in the London Marathon in 1984, 1985, 1987 and 1988?
6. **What number on a dartboard is opposite the 1?**
7. Which female American tennis player won the US Open singles in 1979 and 1981?
8. **On which horse did Conor O'Dwyer win the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham in 2004 and 2005?**
9. In which city are the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee, which were moved there from France during the First World War?
10. **In what sport was Bristol-born Jason Crump world champion in 2004, 2006 and 2009?**

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Max Verstappen. 2 Portugal. 3 Ben Redshaw. 4 Pakistan. 5 Ingrid Kristiansen. 6 19. 7 Tracy Austin. 8 Hardy Eustace. 9 Lausanne. 10 Speedway.

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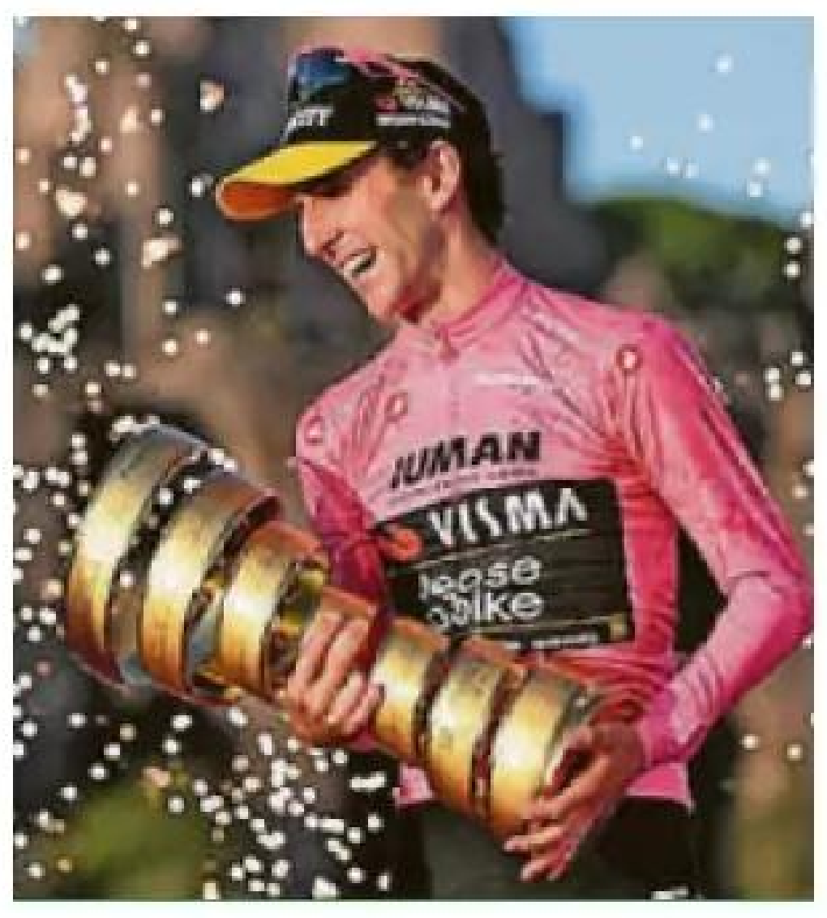

Yates is proud at end of the road

CYCLING

SIMON YATES, Great Britain's two-time Grand Tour champion, shocked cycling by announcing his decision to retire with immediate effect.

He ends a career that included overall victories at the Vuelta a Espana in 2018 and then, sensationally, at last year's Giro d'Italia (above) as well as stage wins at the Tour de France.

The 33-year-old from Bury wrote on Instagram: "This may come as a surprise to many, but it is not a decision I have made lightly.

"I have been thinking about it for a long time, and it now feels like the right moment to step away from the sport. I am deeply proud of what I have managed to achieve and equally grateful for the lessons that came with it."

At the 2025 Giro, Yates produced one of the greatest rides of his career on one of cycling's most grueling climbs.

He started the penultimate stage in third, 81 seconds behind leader Isaac Del Toro.

But the British cyclist launched a solo attack on the climb to Colle delle Finestre – the same mountain that spelled heartbreak for him seven years before – to ride clear of his title rivals.

Yates was under contract with Team Visma-Lease a Bike until the end of 2026.

Last year also saw Yates, a world champion on the track in 2013, win his third stage of the Tour de France and he added: "From racing on the track at the Manchester Velodrome, to competing and winning on the biggest stage and representing my country at the Olympic Games, cycling has shaped every chapter of my life.

"While the victories will always stand out, the harder days and setbacks were just as important.

"They taught me resilience and patience, and made the successes mean even more."

THINGS CAN ONLY GET BETHELL

Jacob hailed as future of English cricket after coming-of-age century

MAKING A STAND Bethell's ton underlined his status as a rising star

BY **RORY DOLLARD**

JACOB BETHELL sealed his status as England's next big thing with a name-making Ashes century then claimed: "It was always coming".

The 22-year-old has long been touted as a prodigious talent but was still awaiting his maiden first-class hundred when he came to the crease on day four of the final Test at the SCG.

With a top score of 93 in county cricket, and 96 in a brief Test career only just into its sixth game, he finally went all the way with a majestic ton to strike back at an Australian attack circling in on victory.

England long ago lost the series, and with it a lot of reputation and hope, but they have gained a captivating glimpse into their future in Sydney.

Joe Root and Ben Stokes hit their first Test hundreds at the same age before going on to become England greats and plenty of top judges are tipping Bethell to follow that trajectory, with TNT Sports pundit Sir Alastair Cook calling him "the future of England cricket".

Asked if his wait to tick off a three-figure score had weighed on his shoulders, Bethell said: "Not really...I knew it was coming. It's just nice to get over that milestone. It gives me a lot of confidence to keep doing it, especially as people will stop talking about it.

"I got a [one-day international] hundred in the summer and I've had to wait a while to raise the bat again but it's an addictive feeling. It's pretty special." Bethell's reaction was admirably understated but there was a larger outlet of emotion in the stands, where parents Graham and Giselle and sister Laura embraced as they took in the moment.

"To get over the line and see their reaction was pretty cool," Jacob said. "That's pretty special. [Dad] is actually quite emotional. I didn't know he would be that emotional, but it is pretty cool to see that.

"I try to reassure them I'll be OK if I get out first ball or if I get a hundred but they want me to do well.

"My dad was a cricketer so he knows how it feels to be out there batting but I don't think that stops him being any less nervous.

"I think my old man would have held off the beers for a few hours, but hopefully he'll have a couple."

Questions will now be asked of England's selectors, who were brave to fast-track Bethell in New Zealand a year ago but then took the cautious approach by reinstating Ollie Pope, who held his place through the summer and until the Ashes were gone at 3-0 down.

Pope (left) managed 125 runs in six innings before giving way to the rising star, who has breathed life into the top order in Melbourne and Sydney.

Bethell has no complaints, adding: "I was pretty happy with how I went in New Zealand but I kind of knew it would be a tough decision to bring me back in in place of someone else.

"I had that on my radar. I was just waiting for the opportunity and making sure I was ready. No one likes to sit on the sidelines, I was chomping at the bit to get going, but the timing was pretty good."

A HUG MOMENT Bethell's parents and sister in the stands

> I got an ODI hundred in the summer and I've had to wait to raise the bat again but it's an addictive feeling. It's pretty special

SMOOTH OPERATOR
Chivers enjoyed huge success with Spurs and scored 13 goals for England

MARTIN CHIVERS

Born: Southampton, April 27, 1945

	App	Goals
1962-1968 **Southampton**	175	96
1968-1976 **Tottenham**	278	118
1976-1978 **Servette**	66	33
1978-1979 **Norwich**	11	4
1979-1980 **Brighton**	5	1
1980 **Dorchester Town**	5	3
1981-1982 **Vard Haugesund**	2	0
1982-1983 **Barnet**	10	0
International		
1964-1968 England u-23	17	7
1971-1973 England	24	13

Chivers... a Rolls-Royce of a player

TRIBUTES TO A SPURS AND ENGLAND HERO

BY **JIM VAN WIJK**

MARTIN CHIVERS was described as a "Rolls-Royce" of a player as tributes were paid to him yesterday after his death at the age of 80.

Former Tottenham and England forward Chivers was one of the iconic stars of the 1970s – leading the attack for Bill Nicholson's Spurs side, winning the League Cup twice as well and enjoying UEFA Cup success.

Steve Archibald, who won the FA Cup twice as well as the 1984 UEFA Cup while at White Hart Lane, wrote on X: "Watched the great Martin Chivers before I became a pro, was an amazing watch.

"He was like Rolls-Royce, so smooth in his movement, excellent in the air and a great finisher, but on top of all of that he was a really nice guy. Most sincere condolences to all of Martin's family xxx."

After starting his career at Southampton, helping the Saints win promotion to the top flight in 1966, a move to Tottenham followed in 1968, for what was then a club and British record fee of £125,000.

He recovered from a serious knee injury to go on to become a key member of the Spurs team which reached four finals in as many years. He scored both goals in the 1971 League Cup win over Aston Villa at Wembley.

Chivers got a memorable long-range goal in the first leg of the 1972 UEFA Cup final against Wolves, which Spurs went on to win 3-2 on aggregate.

The 1972-73 season saw him finish with 33 goals, as Spurs lifted the League Cup once more with a 1-0 win over Norwich.

Chivers scored 13 goals in 24 appearances for England, his last game coming in the 1-1 draw against Poland at Wembley, when a goal-keeper Jan Tomaszewski helped deny Sir Alf Ramsey's side a place at the 1974 World Cup.

After 367 appearances for Spurs, scoring 174 goals, Chivers left to join Swiss club Servette ahead of the 1976-1977 season. He later had spells at Norwich and briefly, Brighton.

In retirement, he ran a hotel and restaurant in Hertfordshire and later did media work with BBC Radio. He was a regular at Tottenham home games and a member of the club's matchday legends hospitality team.

A Tottenham statement said: "We extend our deepest sympathies to Martin's family, friends and former team-mates at this incredibly sad time...Rest in peace, Martin. One of the all-time greats."

IRONS' SCRAP METTLE

BY **KEITH WEBSTER**

MATEUS FERNANDES insists West Ham's players won't give up on their battle to beat the drop.

A Morgan Gibbs-White penalty a minute from time on Tuesday night handed Nottingham Forest a 2-1 win and dealt a devastating blow to the Hammers' hopes of survival.

Victory saw Nuno Espirito Santo's (far right) side slip to seven points behind Forest, the team immediately above the relegation line.

West Ham have gone 10 league games without a win since they beat Burnley on November 8. Five of the last six Premier League matches ended in defeat. But Portuguese midfielder Fernandes (inset) reckons the club has players who are good enough to get them out of trouble.

"It's difficult tonight," said Fernandes.

"We spoke this week about this game. We knew it was important, but it is not finished, and we're still fighting until the end.

"We already know the quality of our squad, and we believe in ourselves.

"We played a good first half, and in the second half, we scored the second goal, which was offside, but we showed a lot of quality. After that, they scored from a set-piece and a penalty. But this is football, we fight until the end."

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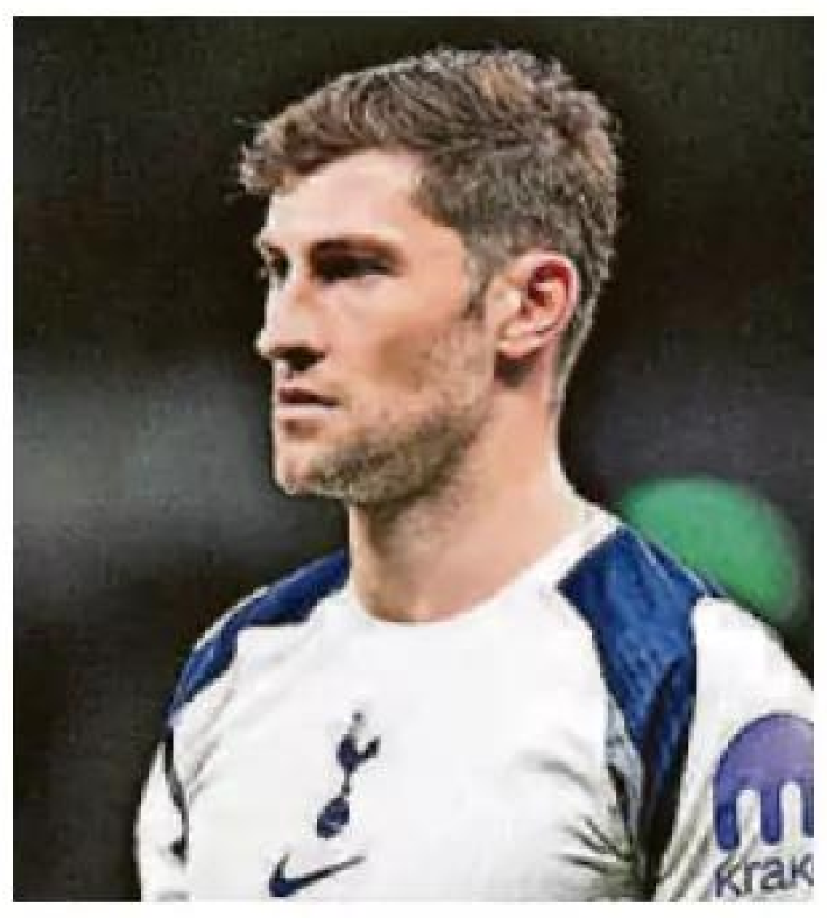


Bellamy: Davies is Cup for it

WALES boss Craig Bellamy insists captain Ben Davies' limited game-time at Tottenham is not an issue for him ahead of the World Cup play-offs in March.

The Spurs defender had to wait until Saturday to make his first Premier League start of the season, scoring a rare goal in the 1-1 draw with Sunderland.

But despite his lack of action this term, Bellamy is confident that Davies (above) will be ready for Wales' bid to reach a second successive World Cup this summer.

He said: "We'll deal with it. There's no issue, what you've got to see now is these boys live it.

"These boys train, they manage themselves and know how to manage themselves.

"OK, nothing will get anywhere close to a game, but they manage their training load and then we go bigger.

"I've been here a year-and-a-half now and Ben has never been a regular [at Tottenham]. He's been our best player."

Senior job for O'Neil

GARY O'NEIL says he is committed to bringing success to Strasbourg after replacing new Chelsea head coach, Liam Rosenior.

Rosenior was confirmed as successor to Enzo Maresca on Monday and former Bournemouth and Wolves boss O'Neil has filled the vacancy at the French club.

The 42-year-old said: "The club has a unique history, extraordinary passion, great resilience, and, of course, loyal fans who want to see this team play attractive football and succeed. My priority is to work hard with the team and give everything for the club's success."

Strasbourg, who are owned by the same American consortium, BlueCo, that owns Chelsea, are seventh in the French top flight.

ARSENAL v LIVERPOOL
Premier League: KO 8pm

IT'S NOT DOM AND DUSTED

Szoboszlai admits it is 'crazy' to think Liverpool are title contenders but warns Gunners there is a long way to go

BY **IAN DOYLE AND PAUL GORST**

DOMINIK SZOBOSZLAI has warned Arsenal the Premier League has not been won yet as champions Liverpool head to the Emirates.

But the Kop midfielder admits it would be "crazy" to think the Reds can still defend their title.

Liverpool travel to runaway leaders Arsenal tonight aiming to put a dent in the Gunners' title charge and extend their own nine-game unbeaten run that has seen them return to the Champions League qualification places.

Arsenal lead the only realistic challengers – Manchester City and Aston Villa – and are odds-on to win the title for the first time in 22 years.

But Szoboszlai said: "It's a long way [to go]. The Premier League is not easy. You don't win it by January. So I don't think we are playing against the champions. They're playing against the champions.

"Of course they are one of the favourites for this year – unbelievable team, really good players. But we shouldn't also forget about Man City, about Villa, who are doing very well."

While having not lost in six weeks, Liverpool have attracted criticism for their style of play during that period in which the need to become more difficult to beat has come at the expense of attacking flair, which has contributed to damaging draws against Sunderland, Leeds (twice) and Fulham.

"We have so many people in the club to find solutions and I'm pretty sure they will," said Szoboszlai.

"Every player has a couple of things they are thinking that everyone has to keep to themselves, then in the end we will speak to each other as a group and grow as a group. We are Liverpool and right now are champions of England."

Of suggestions the Reds could yet embark on a title challenge during the second half of the campaign, Szoboszlai said: "It's crazy. By February [last season] we were 10 points clear.

"Now, probably because we are so many points behind we can't think in the long-term. We have to show game-by-game we are even able to be in the top four."

Arne Slot has faced accusations of playing boring football in recent weeks but the head coach said: "Packing the team with midfielders is not something I am doing by choice. I am doing it because certain players aren't available.

"But if I am known for one thing then it is attacking football, playing a lot of forwards and bringing a lot of attackers in when we are a goal down.

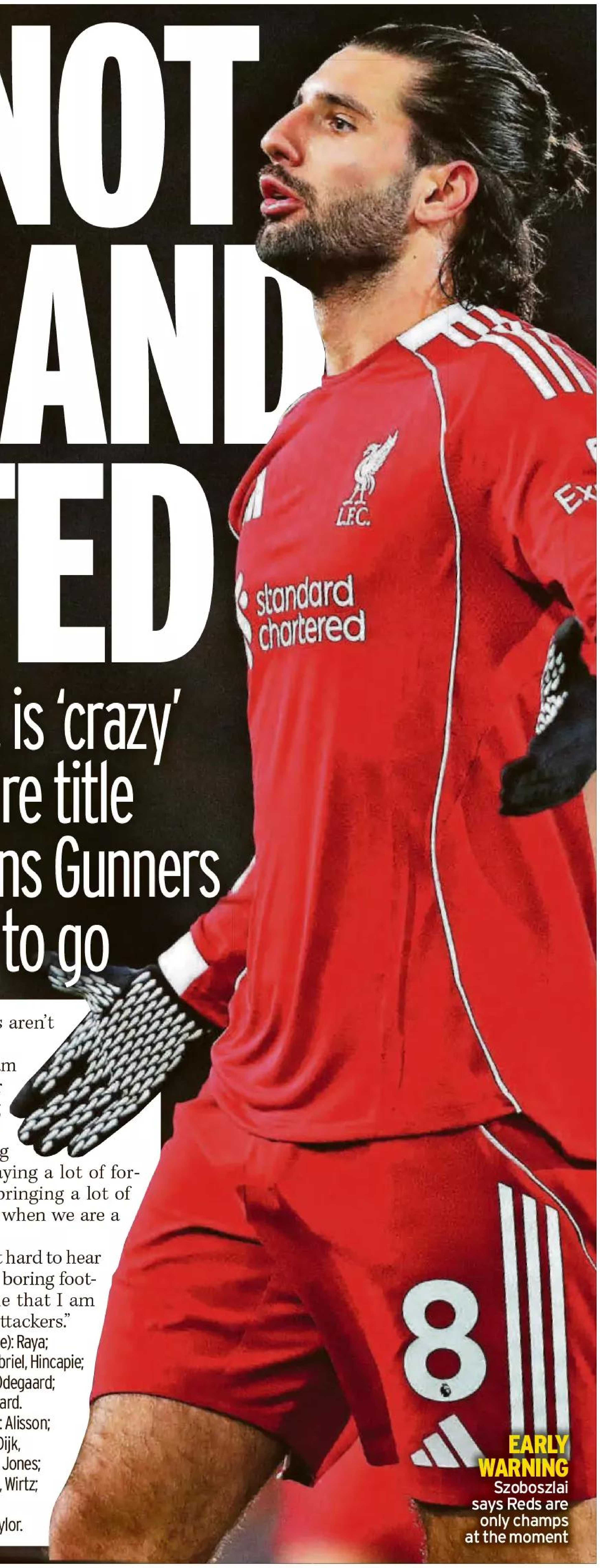
"So I find it hard to hear that we play boring football, let alone that I am not playing attackers."

HAND FORCED Injuries have led to Slot's tweak in style, but it's not 'boring'

Arsenal (probable): Raya; Timber, Saliba, Gabriel, Hincapie; Zubimendi, Rice, Odegaard; Saka, Gyokeres, Trossard.

Liverpool (probable): Alisson; Bradley, Konate, Van Dijk, Kerkez; Gravenberch, Jones; Frimpong, Szoboszlai, Wirtz; Gakpo.

Referee: Anthony Taylor.



EARLY WARNING Szoboszlai says Reds are only champs at the moment

Arteta knows Gunners don't have aura of invincibility yet

WORK TO DO Only trophies will build legacy for Arteta

BY **TOM CANTON**

MIKEL ARTETA admitted his Arsenal side must win trophies before they can be compared to the Invincibles.

Arsenal face Liverpool tonight with a chance of taking another step torward their goal of winning the Premier League.

But despite his Gunners side having both more points and more goals than Arsene Wenger's unbeaten 2003-04 champions at the same stage, Arteta is not taking anything for granted until silverware is secured.

"No [we are not yet as good], because the Invincibles won a lot," Arteta said. "And they won consistently, they created a history and a legacy. We have to do that."

The Gunners are 14 points clear of tonight's visitors, but Arteta was full of praise for defending champions Liverpool and their head coach Arne Slot. The Spaniard said: "The margins for all of us are really small. They have a great manager, they have a sensational structure."

Liverpool are responsible for one of the Gunners' two league defeats this season, winning at Anfield in August courtesy of Dominik Szoboszlai's stunning late free-kick.

The Reds spent more than £400million in the summer on players, but Slot has been unable to lift the overall performance.

But Arteta said: "The previous year they didn't spend much and they managed to win the league.

"You need a lot of things to go your way to be champions, and almost everything has to be perfect.

"The moment you have issues around the squad or with players injured or whatever it is, then it is not that perfect."

HARRY'S GAME Wilson wins it to make it an uncomfortable evening for Rosenior and Eghbali (inset) in the stand

PREMIER LEAGUE

FULHAM		CHELSEA
55%	POSSESSION	45%
5	SHOTS ON TARGET	6
3	SHOTS OFF TARGET	5
561	TOTAL PASSES	459
2	CORNERS	11
1	OFFSIDE	2
11	FOULS	6
0 3	CARDS	3 1

REF: Peter Bankes **ATT:** 26,990

LINE-UPS

FULHAM (3-4-2-1): Leno; Diop, Andersen, Cuenca (Kevin 46); Castagne, Berge, Cairney (Lukic 73), Robinson (Sessegnon 73); Wilson (Traore 90), Smith Rowe (Reed 83); Jimenez.

CHELSEA (4-2-3-1): Sanchez; Gusto (Acheampong 76), Chalobah, Tosin, Cucurella; Andrey Santos (Hato 28), Caicedo; Palmer (Joao Pedro 75), Fernandez (James 65), Neto; Delap.

MAN OF THE MATCH
HARRY WILSON

ROSENIOR GIVEN FUL ON WELCOME

FULHAM 2
Jimenez 55, Wilson 81
CHELSEA 1
Delap 72

Wilson's winner deflates new Blues boss

BY **JOHN CROSS**

AT LEAST Liam Rosenior had a great view of the scale of the job facing him at Chelsea.

It is hard to imagine it could have gone any worse for Chelsea, which makes you wonder why the new manager would choose to sit in the stands rather than throw himself straight in.

Marc Cucurella was sent off, Chelsea lost at the hands of their neighbours and the fans chanted abuse at joint owner Behdad Eghbali as another new era got off to a bad start.

The Chelsea fans were singing, "f*** off Eghbali – you're not wanted here" at the club's joint owner, who was sat next to Rosenior in the directors' box at Craven Cottage.

Rosenior left under-21s boss Calum McFarlane in charge again after he oversaw Chelsea's draw at Manchester City on Sunday. The reasoning was Rosenior did not have enough time to prepare his new players, but Thomas Tuchel famously only needed one training session before taking his first game in 2021.

But Rosenior was left cursing at the final whistle as 10-man Chelsea's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League took another hit.

In-form Harry Wilson was Fulham's hero yet again as the home fans chanted, "Harry Wilson – he's done it again". He is unstoppable right now.

It left Fulham celebrating at the final whistle and Rosenior's first task must be to improve Chelsea's disciplinary record, because they have found it hard enough to win games with 11 players this season, let alone 10.

Cucurella's red card was their fifth in the Premier League this term, which is their highest since getting six in 2007/08. And make no mistake, Fulham thoroughly deserved their win. They had some nervy moments early on when keeper Bernd Leno looked vulnerable, but he played a part in the game's big flashpoint.

Leno punted the ball down field, Wilson scampered clear only to be pulled back by Cucurella.

Referee Peter Bankes had no hesitation in brandishing a red card and only a VAR check spared Chelsea further punishment, as it showed the pull back occurred just outside the box.

Wilson's resulting kick was straight into the wall but Chelsea had to change their game plan and, after defender Jorrel Hato replaced midfielder Santos, they hung on.

Emile Smith Rowe saw an effort whistle just over the bar and then Wilson had the ball in the net, only for VAR to rule Raul Jimenez was offside in the build-up. However, the 10 men finally conceded 10 minutes into the second half, when Sander Berge's brilliant cross was glanced home by Jimenez.

It looked pretty ominous for Chelsea. But, in fairness, they battled back. Liam Delap was denied by Leno. But the reprieve did not last long.

Pedro Neto swung over a corner, Fulham defender Antonee Robinson unwittingly headed against his own post and Delap was able to touch home an equaliser from close range.

The drama was not over. Back came Fulham. Chelsea keeper Robert Sanchez made a smart save but the ball fell to Wilson who stepped inside, then arrowed in a brilliant low shot into the far corner.

That was Wilson's 10th goal involvement since the start of November – only Erling Haaland has got more during that period.

PARTING GIFT Celebrations for Semenyo after his winning goal for Bournemouth

Semenyo puts the Cherries on top as Frank's left Cupset

Bournemouth 3
Tottenham 2

BY **NEIL McLEMAN**

ANTOINE SEMENYO said farewell to Bournemouth with a superb late winner to leave Tottenham needing to spend in the January transfer window.

The Ghana winger is set to join Manchester City in a £65million deal this week.

And the Londoner celebrated his big move - and his 26th birthday yesterday - with an injury-time strike to give the Cherries their first win in 12 games.

Semenyo was subbed off before the end to a deafening standing ovation - and returned for an emotional post-match lap of honour.

Mathys Tel had given Spurs an early lead before Evanilson and Junior Kroupi put the hosts in front before the break.

Palhinha's 78th-minute overhead kick following a corner had appeared to salvage a draw for Spurs.

But Semenyo picked up a short ball from substitute David Brooks before firing home to give Andoni Iraola his first win since October.

It was another bad night for Thomas Frank who started the evening getting photographed pre-game drinking from an Arsenal cup (inset).

Lucas Bergvall was subbed off to add to the growing injury list after the sale of Brennan Johnson and Spurs require reinforcements this month, especially up front. Spurs players wore black armbands to honour Martin Chivers and the travelling support chanted the name of the late England star.

But how the current Whites could have used the class of the former Tottenham favourite in 2026. The North London club have now won only two Premier League games in 12.

Tottenham needed only five minutes to take the lead at the Vitality Stadium as Tel cut inside on the left flank and a slight deflection to his shot by Alex Jimenez was enough to beat Dorde Petrovic.

But the Cherries were level after 22 minutes when Evanilson headed home Marcus Tavernier's angled cross.

And Tavernier set up Bournemouth's second goal 14 minutes later. Semenyo missed an attempted volley of his cross but Marcos Senesi pulled the ball back for the unmarked Kroupi to sweep home.

After the break, Darren England awarded Micky van de Ven a penalty after the Dutchman ran from his own half before going down in the box.

He reversed the decision after a VAR review before Palhinha's equaliser was followed by Semenyo's winner.

BOURNEMOUTH: Petrovic; Jimenez (Adli 87), Hill, Senesi, Truffert; Scott, Cook; Semenyo (Milosavljevic 90) , Kroupi (Brooks 64), Tavernier (Diakite 87); Evanilson (Unal 64)

TOTTENHAM: Vicario; Porro, Romero, Van de Ven, Spence; Bergvall (Odobert 57) Palhinha, Bentancur (Gray 86); Simons, Kolo Muani (Richarlison 66), Tel

REFEREE: D England

BRAZIL-IANT Thiago rolls in his opener

SAMBA KING THIAGO SINKS SORRY CATS

Brentford 3 Sunderland 0

BY **ANDY SIMS**

IGOR THIAGO scored twice to keep Brentford's unlikely European push on track and become the top-scoring Brazilian in a Premier League season.

The striker, 24, notched his 15th and 16th goals of a sparkling campaign, taking him past the season's-best tallies of countrymen Roberto Firmino, Gabriel Martinelli and Matheus Cunha.

Yehor Yarmolyuk added a third to sink fellow surprise packages Sunderland, who were left to rue Enzo Le Fee making a mess of a Panenka penalty when he could have made it 1-1.

Moments later Thiago, Sunday's hat-trick hero against Everton, grabbed his second to set up the Bees for a fourth win in five matches.

Brentford always like to make a fast start and Black Cats goalkeeper Robin Roefs was forced into his first save after just 37 seconds, tipping Kevin Schade's lob over the crossbar.

They took the lead on the half-hour when Vitaly Janelt nicked possession from Nordi Mukiele in midfield and sent Thiago through to round Roefs and roll the ball home.

Lewis Keane-Potter's free-kick clipped the crossbar just before the break but there was little response from Regis Le Bris' (inset) visitors.

But they were gifted a route back in the 57th minute when Kristoffer Ajer bundled over Brian Brobbey in the box – only for Le Fee's misplaced confidence saw him chip the ball straight into the arms of Bees keeper Caoimhin Kelleher.

Le Fee's embarrassment was complete moments later when Schade's shot came back off the crossbar, Mathias Jensen lifted the ball back to the far post, where Schade headed it across goal for Thiago to tuck it away.

The Black Cats were finished off with 17 minutes still to play when Yarmolyuk lashed in the third goal to secure the three points.

BRENTFORD (4-2-3-1): Kelleher; Kayode (Hickey 82), Ajer, Collins, Henry; Yarmolyuk, Janelt; Jensen (Henderson 76), Lewis-Potter (Damsgaard 61), Schade; Thiago (Nelson 82).
SUNDERLAND (4-2-3-1): Roefs; Hume, Mukiele, Ballard (Cirkin 79), Alderete (O'Nien 83); Geertruida (Neil 79), Xhaka; Rigg (Mayenda 52), Le Fee, Adingra (Mundle 52); Brobbey.
REF: Matt Donohue **ATT:** 17,016.

KAOR WRECKS

LEG IT Pep shows 4th official Tony Harrington what happened

MAN CITY 1
Haaland 41 (pen)

BRIGHTON 1
Mitoma 60

BY **SIMON BAJKOWSKI**

WHAT a time for soon-to-be Manchester City midfielder Antoine Semenyo to score a last-minute winner.

City will badly wish he hadn't been 250 miles away still playing for Bournemouth as they were held in the Premier League for the third time in 2026.

With just 13 senior outfield players fit after injuries to Ruben Dias and Josko Gvardiol at the weekend, tired City players were asked to go again and hope that their spirit would get them through.

Add to that a first appearance for the club for Max Alleyne, the 20-year-old centre-back who was at Watford on Monday enjoying a season-long loan before he was drastically recalled.

However tired the legs were – and boy were they – to a man City showed that they were up for a fight against Brighton.

Erling Haaland instantly resumed hostilities with Jan Paul van Hecke, Bernardo Silva felt Maxim De Cuyper trying to take the shirt off his back on a number of occasions before the half-time whistle, and the biggest beef was reserved for the touchline.

Pep Guardiola and his counterpart Fabian Hurzeler spent large chunks of the game going at each other or the fourth official.

It was compelling stuff, which was a relief because the error-ridden football wasn't, as both sides failed to take the initiative or show that they should be ahead. Boiling point was reached

A LITLE MIT SPECIAL
Mitoma fires in to make it 1-1

FISTS OF FURY A gloved Unai Emery shows his frustration

Villans miss the chance to close gap

BY **JOHN TOWNLEY**

Crystal Palace 0
Aston Villa 0

ASTON VILLA avoided another defeat to Crystal Palace but could not steal a victory against their out-of-form bogey team in a stalemate at Selhurst Park.

Unai Emery's side – who have now not beaten Palace in their last seven attempts – saw two penalty shouts turned down in the first half and came closest to winning the game through Ollie Watkins, who hit the post late on.

Villa asserted their dominance early on and enjoyed the majority of possession in the opening 15 minutes.

John McGinn was unfortunate not to be awarded a spot-kick despite Palace's Tyrick Mitchell blocking the ball with his hand.

Palace have now gone nine games in all competitions without a win, but created the first clear chance of the game when Adam Wharton split Villa's defence to find Brennan Johnson racing clean through on goal.

But the £35m record signing saw his effort tipped over the bar by the stretching Emi Martinez.

At the other end, Palace keeper Dean Henderson produced a key intervention of his own in the 25th minute, rushing off his line to deny Watkins inside the box after the Villa striker had been picked out by Youri Tielemans. Villa

Guardiola left to rue misses as Mitoma grabs deserved point

near the end of the first half when referee Thomas Bramall failed to give a penalty for a foul on Jeremy Doku.

Guardiola raged, then pulled substitute Rodri away from arguing with the Brighton bench, then sniped some more at Hurzeler as Silva and Haaland scrapped with the Seagulls defence, waiting for Bramall to go to the VAR monitor to rectify his error.

Haaland rolled in the penalty to put City in front, and they should have had a second just after the break when Silva was gifted the ball in the box but he could only hit the post with his effort.

Predictably, they were made to pay when Kaoru Mitoma arrowed the ball through Nico Gonzalez's legs and into the bottom corner on the hour.

Continuing the theme of the night, Gianluigi Donnarumma was booked as City looked to restart the game.

The hosts wobbled before regaining the upper hand in the game, and Ferdi Kadioglu cleared a Haaland header off the line from a corner before the striker missed from close range after being set up by substitute Rayan Cherki.

The anger from the first half turned to anguish as the Blues tried desperately – and failed – to get their noses back in front.

Seven minutes from time, City old boy James Milner came on for Brighton to mark his 650th Premier League appearance and his first since turning 40.

Hurzeler chased Guardiola onto the pitch at full-time to shake his hand, and their conversation did not look any friendlier than what had preceded it. City have bigger things to worry about, though, as they look at another missed opportunity.

With points dropped for the third game in seven days, City have blown their momentum and gifted Arsenal breathing room. By the time Semenyo arrives, it could be too late.

PER'S TITLE BID

THE BIG 150 CHECKOUT Haaland brings up goal milestone from the spot

OLD HEAD Milner and Kadioglu embrace at full-time (Pic: SmartFrame/ News Images)

as Watkins hits post in dying stages

had another penalty appeal turned down before the break when Matty Cash's effort was blocked en route to goal by Mitchell's hand once again.

Referee Andy Madley waved play on and VAR Michael Oliver agreed there was no infringement.

Villa's challenge of winning a 13th match in 14 games was made harder when first-choice goalkeeper Martinez had to be replaced at the break, making way for Marco Bizot.

Palace then had several chances to break the deadlock, with Yeremy Pino seeing an effort blocked by Victor Lindelof's head and another saved by Bizot, before Lucas Digne denied Justin Devenny on the follow-up, while Boubacar Kamara thwarted Marc Guehi with a flying challenge inside the box.

Cash then served up a cross to Watkins in the penalty area with the clock ticking down, but the England striker saw his header hit the post – and with that the chance to close the gap on Arsenal, who play Liverpool tonight, went begging.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-4-2-1): Henderson; Canvot, Lacroix, Guehi; Devenny (Sosa 90), Wharton, Hughes, Mitchell; Johnson, Pino; Mateta.

ASTON VILLA (4-2-3-1): Martinez (Bizot 46); Cash, Konsa, Lindelof, Digne (Maatsen 73); Kamara (Bogarde 82), Tielemans; McGinn (Malen 73), Rogers, Sancho; (Buendia 65), Watkins.

REF: Andy Madley.

HEND IS IN SIGHT Dean saves from Ollie Watkins to keep it level

SPORT IN BRIEF

Premier League

BOURNEMTH (2)....3 TOTTENHAM (1)...2
Evanilson 22 / Tel 5
Junior Kroupi 36 / Joao Palhinha 78
Semenyo 90 / **Att: 11,212**

BRENTFORD (1).....3 SUNDERLAND (0) .0
Thiago 30, 65 / **Att: 17,016**
Yarmolyuk 73

BURNLEY (1).........2 MAN UTD (0)........2
Heaven 13 (og) / Sesko 50, 60
Anthony 66 / **Att: 21,047**

CRYSTAL PAL (0)...0 ASTON VILLA (0)..0

EVERTON (1).........1 WOLVES (0).........1
Keane 17 / Mane 69

FULHAM (0)...........2 CHELSEA (0)........1
Jimenez 55 / Delap 72
Wilson 81

MAN CITY (1).........1 BRIGHTON (0)......1
Haaland 41 (pen) / Mitoma 60

NEWCASTLE (1).....4 LEEDS (2)............3
Barnes 36, 90 / Aaronson 32, 79
Joelinton 54 / Calvert-Lewin 45 (pen)
Guimaraes 90 (pen)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	20	15	3	2	40	14	48
Man City	21	13	4	4	45	19	43
Aston Villa	21	13	4	4	33	24	43
Liverpool	20	10	4	6	32	28	34
Brentford	21	10	3	8	35	28	33
Newcastle	21	9	5	7	32	27	32
Man Utd	21	8	8	5	36	32	32
Chelsea	21	8	7	6	34	24	31
Fulham	21	9	4	8	30	30	31
Sunderland	21	7	9	5	21	22	30
Brighton	21	7	8	6	31	28	29
Everton	21	8	5	8	23	25	29
Crystal Palace	21	7	7	7	22	23	28
Tottenham	21	7	6	8	30	27	27
Bournemouth	21	6	8	7	34	40	26
Leeds	21	5	7	9	29	37	22
Nottm Forest	21	6	3	12	21	34	21
West Ham	21	3	5	13	22	43	14
Burnley	21	3	4	14	22	41	13
Wolves	21	1	4	16	15	41	7

BASKETBALL

NBA: Indiana Pacers 116 Cleveland Cavaliers 120, Washington Wizards 120 Orlando Magic 112, New Orleans Pelicans 103 LA Lakers 111, Memphis Grizzlies 106 San Antonio Spurs 105, Minnesota Timberwolves 122 Miami Heat 94, Sacramento Kings 98 Dallas Mavericks 100.

CRICKET

1ST T20 INT'NAL—Sri Lanka v Pakistan (Dambulla): **Sri Lanka 128-10** (19.2 overs; M S A Mirza 3-18; A Ahmed 3-25); **Pakistan 129-4** (16.4 overs; S Farhan 51). *Pakistan win by 6 wickets.*

ICE HOCKEY

ELITE LEAGUE: Dundee Stars 4 Belfast Giants 7.
NHL: Tampa Bay Lightning 4 Colorado Avalanche 2, Philadelphia Flyers 5 Anaheim Ducks 2, Carolina Hurricanes 6 Dallas Stars 3, Buffalo Sabres 5 Vancouver Canucks 3, New York Islanders 9 New Jersey Devils 0, Toronto Maple Leafs 4 Florida Panthers 1, Winnipeg Jets 3 Vegas Golden Knights 4 (OT), Edmonton Oilers 6 Nashville Predators 2, San Jose Sharks 5 Columbus Blue Jackets 2, Seattle Kraken 7 Boston Bruins 4.

SNOOKER

WST BETVICTOR CH'SHIP LGE (Mattioli Arena, Leicester)—**Group 3:** G Xiao (Chn) bt C Wakelin (Eng) 3-2; A Kowalski (Pol) bt J Si (Chn) 3-1; S Yuan (Chn) bt J O'Connor (Eng) 3-2; C Wakelin (Eng) bt G Wilson (Eng) 3-2; G Xiao (Chn) bt A Kowalski (Pol) 3-0; J Si (Chn) bt G Wilson (Eng) 3-2; J O'Connor (Eng) bt C Wakelin (Eng) 3-0.
Semi-Finals: J Si (Chn) bt G Xiao (Chn) 3-2; J O'Connor (Eng) bt S Yuan (Chn) 3-1. **Final:** J Si (Chn) bt J O'Connor (Eng) 3-2.

SQUASH

PSA WORLD TOUR KARACHI OPEN (Pakistan)—**Men's 1st rd:** (2) Marwan ElShorbagy (Eng) bt T Mekhalfi (Fra) 3-0 (4) Mohamed ElShorbagy (Eng) bt K El Hammamy (Egy) 3-1. **Women's 1st rd:** (7) L Turmel (Eng) bt T Malik (Eng) 3-0.

TENNIS

WOMEN'S ASB CLASSIC (Auckland, New Zealand)—**2nd rd:** F Jones (Gbr) bt S Kraus (Aut) 1-6 6-4 6-1; X Wang (Chn) bt R Zarazua (Mex) 7-5 6-4; S Costoulas (Bel) bt K Quevedo (Spa) 6-2 6-0; I Jovic (USA) bt S Bejlek (Cze) 7-6 (7-3) 6-4; F Jones (Gbr) bt S Kraus (Aut) 1-6 6-4 6-1; X Wang (Chn) bt R Zarazua (Mex) 7-5 6-4; S Costoulas (Bel) bt K Quevedo (Spa) 6-2 6-0.
ATP BANK OF CHINA HONG KONG—2nd rd: L Musetti (Ita) bt T Etcheverry (Arg) 6-7 (3-7) 6-2 6-4; N Borges (Por) bt M Cilic (Cro) 7-5 6-3; C Wong (Hkg) bt G Diallo (Can) 1-6 7-5 7-5; A Rublev (Rus) bt Y Wu (Chn) 3-6 6-2 6-1.

TODAY'S DIARY

(7.45pm unless stated)

Premier League

Arsenal v Liverpool (8pm).......................
(Live on Sky Sports Main Event)

CRICKET

5th Test—day 5 of 5: Australia v England (Sydney, 11.30pm).

SNOOKER

WST BetVictor Championship League Snooker (Mattioli Arena, Leicester).

CRAZY FINISH Eddie Howe celebrates

BARNES HAS A STORMER WITH TOON

NEWCASTLE 4
Barnes 36, 90+12, Joelinton 54, Guimaraes pen 90+1
LEEDS UNITED 3
Aaronson 32, 79, Calvert-Lewin 45+5 pen

BY **LEE RYDER**

JUST before the kick-off, Newcastle fans showed their love to Kevin Keegan, who is in hospital after being diagnosed with cancer.

Keegan's name rang out around St James' Park as the game got under way. It was a thrilling match worthy of King Kev as Toon grabbed a dramatic late win.

Brenden Aaronson struck twice for Leeds with Dominic Calvert-Lewin on target again. Harvey Barnes and Joelinton netted for the Toon, with Bruno Guimaraes adding a late penalty before Barnes wrapped it up.

Leeds grabbed the lead on 32 minutes after a rare mistake from Malick Thiaw. Calvert-Lewin picked up the loose ball and fed Aaronson, who beat Nick Pope with a low shot into the corner.

Newcastle replied just four minutes later when Guimaraes headed the ball forward before Anthony Gordon and Nick Woltemade worked the ball into the path of Barnes, who struck it past Lucas Perri to make it 1-1.

But the first half drama wasn't over, far from it, as Lewis Miley clipped the post before two penalty appeals. One was given as Thiaw was adjudged to have handled as he went down with the referee pointing straight to the spot. Calvert-Lewin stepped up and sent Pope the wrong way to make it 2-1.

The game was all square on 54 minutes when Guimaraes dinked the ball into the danger area and a diving header from Joelinton (above) was flicked into the corner for 2-2.

With 19 minutes left, Fabian Schar tangled with Calvert-Lewin and went down in agony, clutching his left knee before being carried off.

And Aaronson then struck again as he picked his spot to make it 3-2.

With two minutes left, Aaronson handled in the box with the referee pointing to the spot, leaving Guimaraes to slot home. Barnes then sealed the points in added time.

NEWCASTLE (4-3-3): Pope; Miley, Thiaw (Botman 46), Schar (Ramsey 76), Hall; Guimaraes, Tonali (Livramento 46), Joelinton; Barnes, Woltemade (Wissa 75), Gordon (Murphy 81)
LEEDS (3-1-4-2): Perri; Rodon (Bornauw 97), Bijol, Struijk; Ampadu; Justin, Stach (Okafor 80), Gruev (Tanaka 97), Gudmundsson: Calvert-Lewin (Nmecha 87), Aaronson (Gnonto 97)
REFEREE: Michael Salisbury

ANT AND

SHAW
23
ANTHONY
11

PREMIER LEAGUE

BURNLEY		MAN UTD
35%	POSSESSION	65%
1	SHOTS ON TARGET	10
1	SHOTS OFF TARGET	13
310	TOTAL PASSES	577
2	CORNERS	6
3	OFFSIDE	0
9	FOULS	8
0 🟥 2 🟨	CARDS	🟨 0 🟥 0

REF: Stuart Attwell

LINE-UPS

BURNLEY (3-4-2-1): Dubravka; Laurent, Esteve, Humphreys; Walker, Ugochukwu, Florentino, Pires; Edwards (Sonne 92), Mejbri (Anthony 58); Broja (Foster 76)
MAN UNITED (4-2-3-1): Lammens; Dalot, Heaven (Yoro 61), Martinez, Shaw; Ugarte (Lacey 84), Casemiro (Mainoo 74); Cunha (Zirkzee 74), Fernandes (Mount 61), Dorgu; Sesko

MAN OF THE MATCH
MARTIN DUBRAVKA

THE ONLY WAY IS UP Stand-in United boss Darren Fletcher

BURNLEY 2
Heaven og 13, Anthony 66
MAN UNITED 2
Sesko 50, 60

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

IT'S difficult to imagine the mild-mannered Darren Fletcher having the hairdryer treatment in his managerial locker, like his mentor Sir Alex Ferguson infamously did.

But whatever he said to his Manchester United stars at half time – it almost worked.

As job interviews go, this one couldn't have started much worse for interim boss Fletcher. United found themselves 1-0 down inside the opening 13 minutes to a Burnley side which hadn't won a game since October.

But a stunning comeback after the break saw Benjamin Sesko score twice as United threatened to win what was, on paper at least, an entirely winnable game.

The goals were Sesko's first in three months. And this fact alone makes Fletcher some sort of managerial genius!

But Fletcher discovered that old habits can die hard, and was denied a winning start thanks to a thumping equaliser from Clarets substitute Jaidon Anthony. Speculation is mounting Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Michael Carrick will both return to take charge of the team until the end of the season.

Travelling fans were chanting Solskjaer's name inside eight minutes. Fletcher had admitted taking charge of United, irrespective of how long for, had been 'beyond his wildest dreams'.

The Scot had grown up at United, worked under the great Sir Alex, and played alongside some of the most illustrious names in the club's long history.

But all of this counted for

DECKED

Sesko close to giving Fletcher a dream start before Jaidon pounces on familiar frailties

nothing on a freezing night at Turf Moor in January. It was time for Fletcher to show people he could sprinkle some stardust on a team without a sheen.

There were a lot of problems to fix. But for the time being, this wasn't rocket science.

All Fletcher had to do was put his players in a system that got the best out of them.

So he reverted to a back four. But it took Fletcher little time to see United go behind, when Bashir Humphreys was allowed to escape the clutches of Casemiro. When he attempted a cross, it deflected off the dithering Ayden Heaven, sending the ball looping into the far corner to put the Clarets ahead.

Fletcher stood there shaking his head in disbelief. United were behind to a side which had gone 11 games without a win, and last tasted victory in October.

What would Fergie do now? Perhaps Fletcher could have called him on his mobile to find out.

He would have expected a serious response, but somehow the home side made it to the interval ahead. It felt like an equaliser had been coming, but Fletcher still had some serious talking to do at half time.

And whatever he said worked, because Sesko fired United level five minutes into the second half, before putting them ahead 10 minutes later.

United were on full throttle and threatened a third through Bruno Fernandes (inset), but his shot clipped Martin Dubravka's post.

However, United have become masters at making life difficult for themselves. And six minutes after falling behind, Scott Parker's men drew level when Anthony twisted and turned inside the United box, before unleashing an unstoppable effort into the top corner.

It was no more than the home side deserved.

Fletcher made some changes in the desperate hope of engineering a winning goal – and almost got one when sub Shea Lacey rattled the crossbar.

But whatever Fletcher tried didn't work – meaning United have now drawn their last three games against rivals either in the bottom three or close to it.

JOY KEANE Everton go in front through Micheal Keane

HAIR-RAISING STUFF AS KID MANE IS HERO

EVERTON	**1**
Keane 17	
WOLVES	**1**
Mane 69	

BY **ANDY DUNN**

IF you ever wondered why Premier League managers look likely to pull their hair out at any given moment, Hill Dickinson Stadium was the place to be last night.

In his long and distinguished career, David Moyes has been annoyed on several occasions. Very annoyed.

But it is hard to remember him being as enraged as he was when young referee Thomas Kirk took a look at the video monitor and then gave Michael Keane a red card for violent conduct.

And the nature of that violence late in the second half? The Everton defender, who had given his side an early lead, had pulled the hair of Tolu Arokodare.

The decision, prompted by VAR, sent Moyes into meltdown but he could easily have been enraged with Keane.

It was needless, it was petty, and referees clearly have a directive to punish such offences with dismissal.

Arokodare kept his hair but Moyes, Everton and Jack Grealish, in particular, lost their heads.

Grealish collected two yellow cards in quick succession – the second for sarcastically applauding the ref – and Everton had to see out the closing stages with nine men.

When and if Moyes, who was also booked, calms down, he will be more concerned about the suspensions than the effect the decisions had on the outcome of this contest. Because even at 11 versus 11, his side did not look like going on to win a match that they led through that Keane finish.

Wolves were good value for the point, notwithstanding the late numerical advantage.

It means they are unbeaten in three Premier League matches but they are, of course, still doomed to Championship football next season.

And that means they will face a fight to hold on to a player who is, arguably, one of the Premier League's most exciting teenage talents.

Yes, that is based on very limited evidence but 18-year-old Mateus Mane's confidence and excellence have shone through in four league starts.

And the manner in which he calmly bent his equaliser around Jordan Pickford told you all that needs to be known about his precocious ability. He has a contract that runs until 2029 but there will be an unseemly scramble of big clubs trying to prise him away at the end of the season.

Mane (above) looked as likely as anyone to win it for Wolves in the 10 minutes when they enjoyed a two-man advantage, but Everton held out and Moyes turned on his heels and headed for the tunnel.

Eventually, he WILL calm down. But it will take some time.

EVERTON (4-3-3): Pickford; O'Brien, Tarkowski, Keane, Mykolenko; Armstrong (Patterson 87), Garner, Iroegbunam; McNeil (Rohl 91), Barry (Beto 87), Grealish
WOLVES (3-5-2): Sa; Mosquera, S Bueno, Krejci (Strand Larsen 67); Tchatchoua, Arias (Andre 46), Gomes, Mane, H Bueno; Arokodare, Hee-Chan (Lima 95)
REFEREE: Thomas Kirk

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TRIBUTES TO 'ROLLS ROYCE OF A PLAYER'

SPURS AND ENGLAND GREAT CHIVERS DIES AGED 80: P53

WE ARE CHAMPS NOT GUNNERS BLASTS DOM

ARSENAL v LIVERPOOL AT THE EMIRATES, 8PM: PREVIEW P54

FULHAM 2 CHELSEA 1

Blues left red-faced once again

BY **JOHN CROSS**

MARC CUCURELLA was sent off as new Chelsea boss Liam Rosenior watched Fulham defeat the Blues.

Defender Marc Cucurella (above) was dismissed in the first half, for their fifth red card in the league this season.

Rosenior, in the stands with under-21s boss Calum McFarlane taking charge, then saw Raul Jimenez and Harry Wilson fire Fulham to victory.

Chelsea striker Liam Delap did equalise but they could not prevent another setback.

MATCH REPORT: SEE PAGE 55

B'MOUTH 3 SPURS 2

Sem signs off with a late winner

PLUS ALL OF LAST NIGHT'S TOP-FLIGHT ACTION: P55-59

BURNLEY 2 2 MAN UNITED

TURF START FOR FLETCH

MOOR TROUBLE A frustrated United skipper Bruno Fernandes

THINK AGAIN Fletcher had to settle for point

Job interview spoiled by Clarets

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

DARREN FLETCHER suffered a roller-coaster start to life as Manchester United interim boss on a frustrating night.

Fletcher took charge following the sacking of Ruben Amorim and looked to be on course for a win thanks to Benjamin Sesko's second-half brace.

Sesko's double wiped out Burnley's early opener from Ayden Heaven's own goal.

But Fletcher's hopes of staging the perfect job interview at Turf Moor were ruined by Clarets substitute Jaidon Anthony's 66th-minute leveller.

United sub Shea Lacey could have won it for the visitors, but his late thunderbolt hit the bar.

MATCH REPORT: PAGES 58-59

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

	1				6		2	4
2	8	6		9		3		1
			1				9	
7			5					
4	2			3	9		6	8
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9		2	3			1	4	

MEDIUM

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DIFFICULT

8								
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Extra clues:
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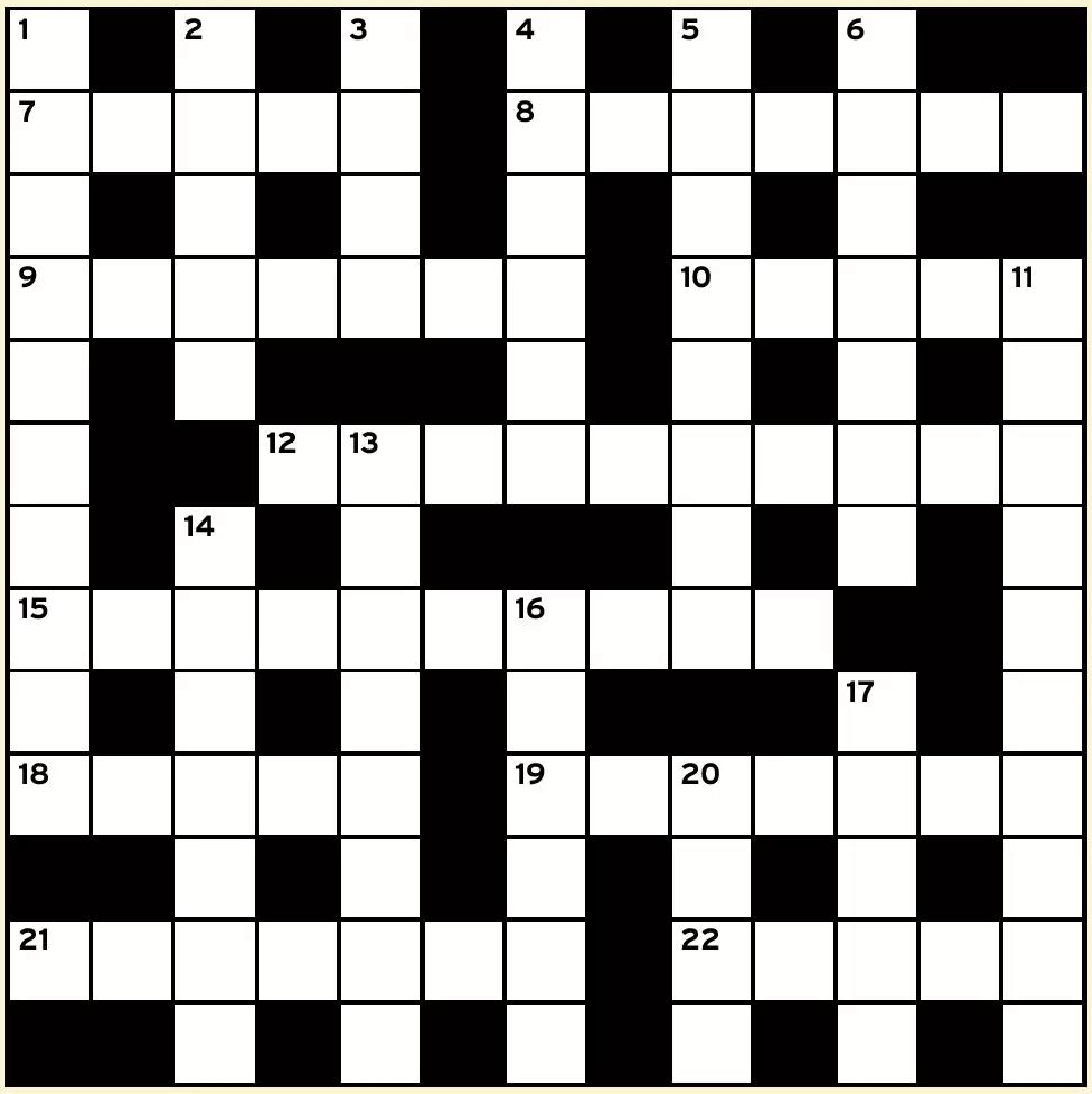
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution:
0907 181 2573
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
- **7** Thigh bone (5)
- **8** Cock (7)
- **9** Raise (7)
- **10** Incense (5)
- **12** Spiteful (10)
- **15** Reinforce (10)
- **18** Additional (5)
- **19** Climate (7)
- **21** Cattle thief (7)
- **22** Annoyed (5)

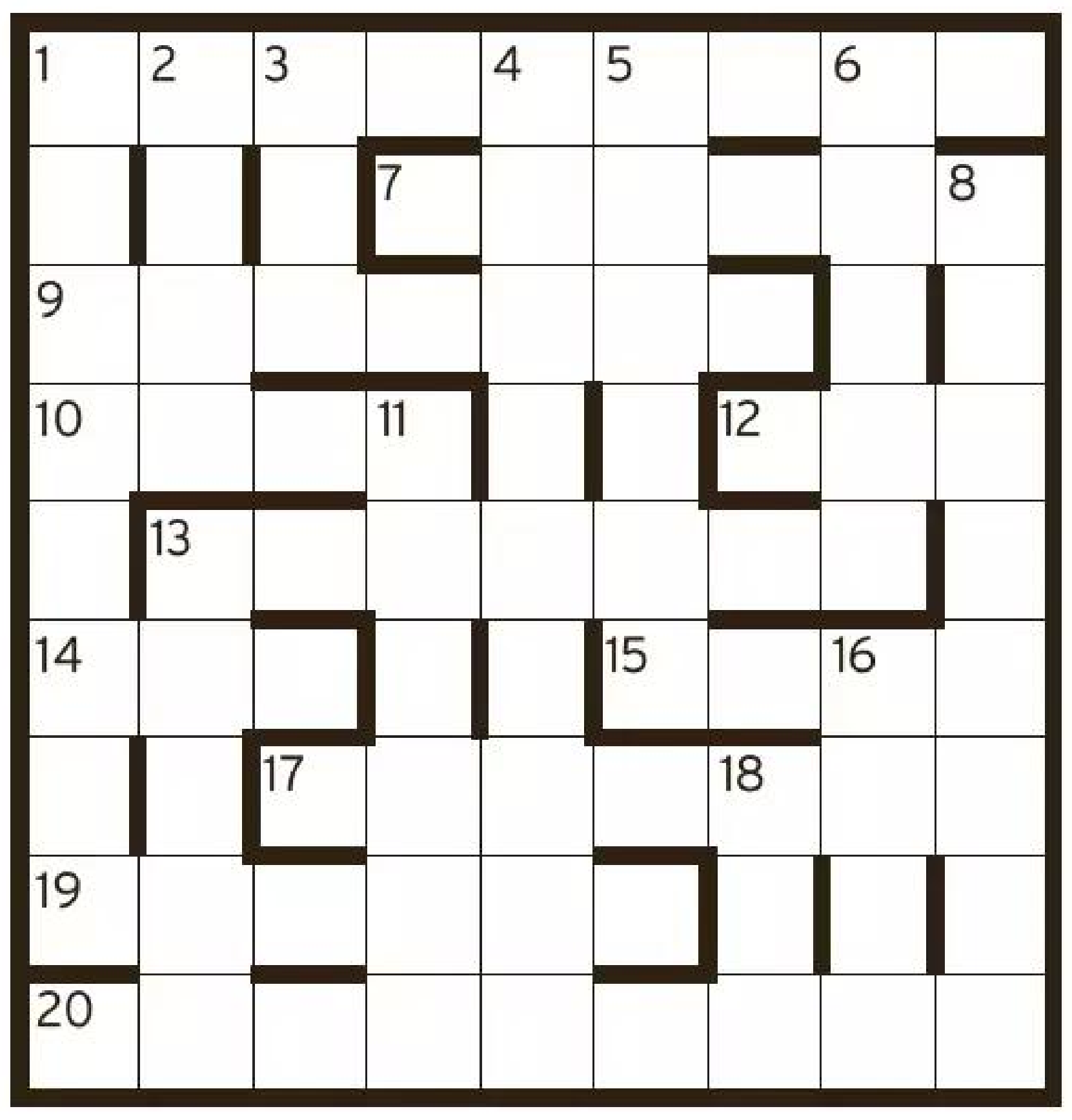
DOWN
- **1** Bubble (10)
- **2** Urge (5)
- **3** Operatic song (4)
- **4** Mourn (6)
- **5** Drowsy (8)
- **6** Totter (7)
- **11** Degenerating (10)
- **13** Yearly (8)
- **14** Dissent (7)
- **16** Cheap and showy (6)
- **17** Cool (5)
- **20** Measure of land (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

SMALL CROSSWORD



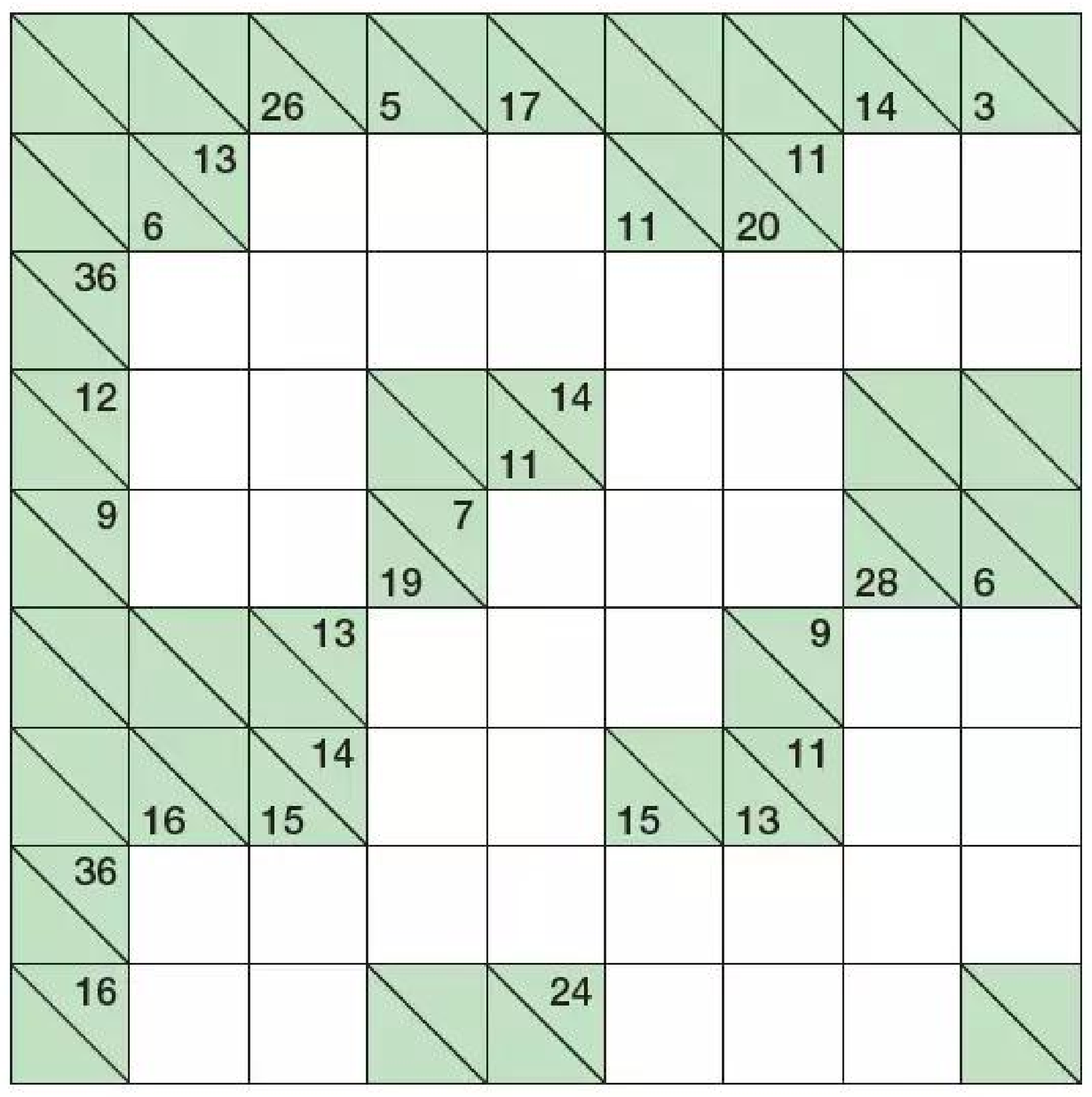
ACROSS
- **1** December 25th (9)
- **7** Tension (6)
- **9** Word or symbol denoting a number (7)
- **10** Unit of weight (4)
- **12** Stage of a journey (3)
- **13** Frozen spikes (7)
- **14** Finish (3)
- **15** Identical (4)
- **17** Dives (7)
- **19** Harsh (6)
- **20** Puts into words (9)

DOWN
- **1** Meeting (8)
- **2** Period of 60 minutes (4)
- **3** Alcoholic spirit (3)
- **4** Cure trust (anag.) (9)
- **5** Lags behind (6)
- **6** Remains of a fire (5)
- **8** Proposes (8)
- **11** Ben _, Death In Paradise actor (6)
- **13** Alphabetical list (5)
- **16** Popular internet image (4)
- **18** State of matter (3)

Solution tomorrow

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2582
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **16 mins**
Good: **12 mins** Excellent: **8 mins**

Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

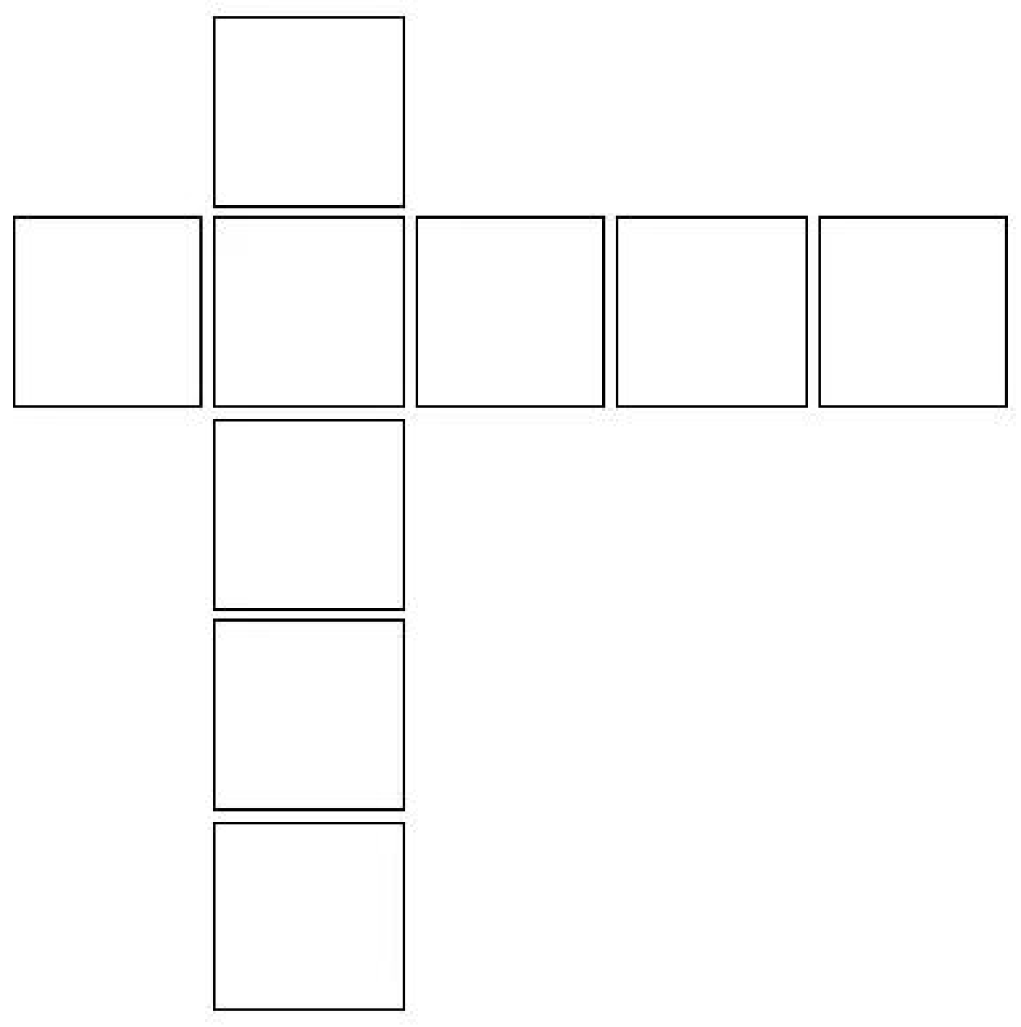
Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. Solution tomorrow

A A G I L L N T V



Puzzles

QUIZWORD

ACROSS

1 Irish actor whose television roles include Miles O'Brien in Star Trek: The Next Generation (4,6)

7 Port and resort on the coast of Italy which was the site of Allied landings in the Second World War (5)

8 & 13 28th president of the US (7,6)

10 US actor whose film roles include Detective Paulie Sellitto in The Bone Collector (2,6)

11 Billy, actor who played the title role in the 1996 film The Phantom (4)

13 See 8

15 Cocktail whose ingredients include rum, grenadine, orgeat, lime juice and sugar (3,3)

17 Alfred Hitchcock film based on a play by Patrick Hamilton (4)

18 Month of the French revolutionary calendar extending from 20 June to 19 July (8)

21 Mike, England Test cricket captain from 1974 to 1975 (7)

22 Piers Haggard film starring Klaus Kinski and Oliver Reed (5)

23 William, British poet laureate from 1843 to 1850 (10)

DOWN

1 City in central Peru that was once the capital of the Incas (5)

2 Founder and ruler of Troy in Greek mythology who fathered Priam (8)

3 Wolf-boy in Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book (6)

4 Ballet by Stravinsky first performed in 1957 (4)

5 Amelia, first woman to fly solo non-stop across the Atlantic (7)

6 Kevin Reynolds film starring Kevin Costner as Mariner (10)

9 1970 novel by Ngaio Marsh (4,2,4)

12 Eight-day Jewish festival commemorating the sparing of the Israelites in Egypt (8)

14 Port in Greece that was site of a 1571 naval battle (7)

16 Novel by Deborah Moggach whose central characters are the Price family (6)

19 Judi, Best Actress Oscar nominee for Philomena (5)

20 Bluish-white metallic element used as a radiation shield (4)

Solution tomorrow

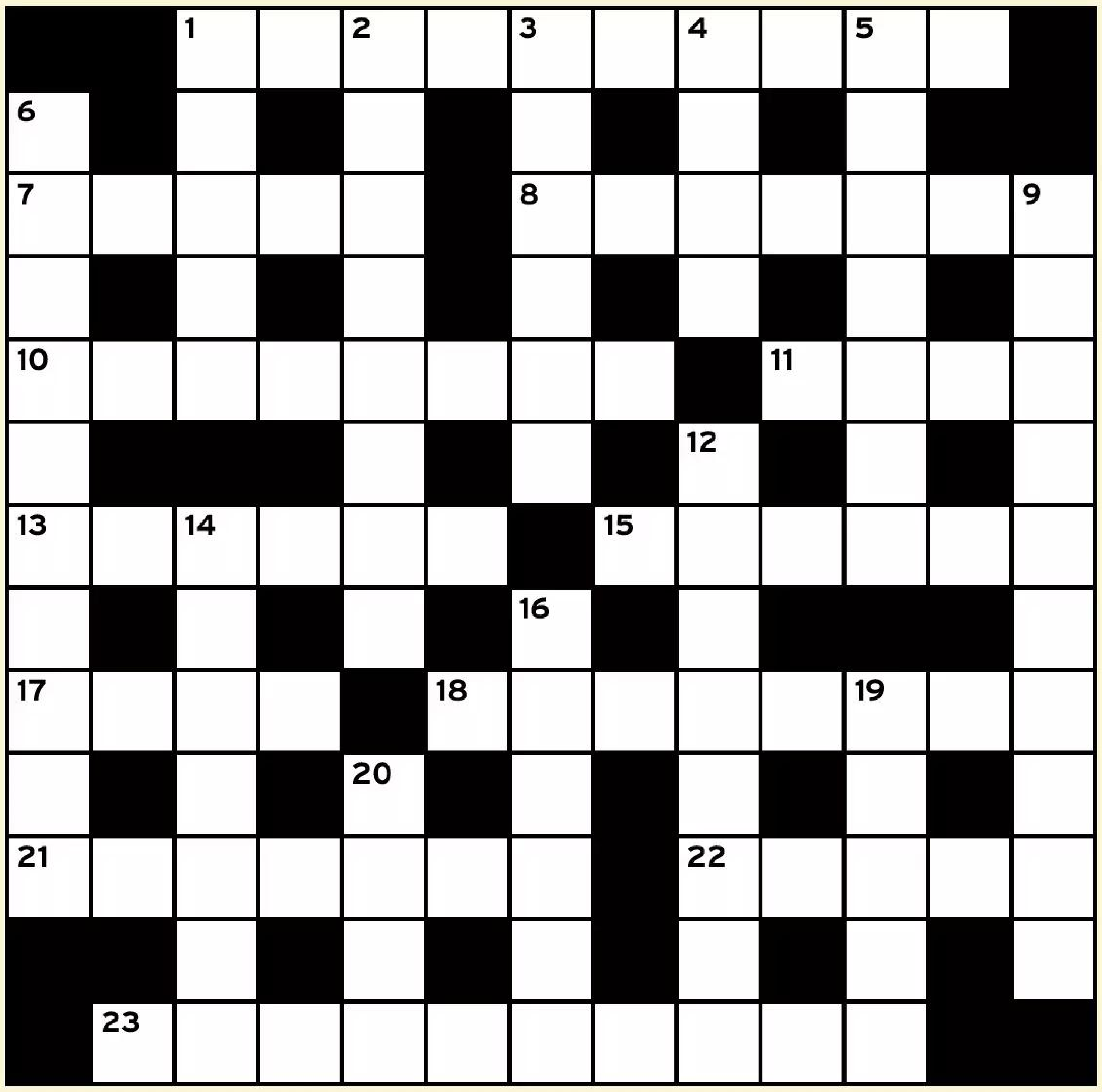
Stuck on the puzzle? Call

0905 789 4190

to hear individual clues or the full solution

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

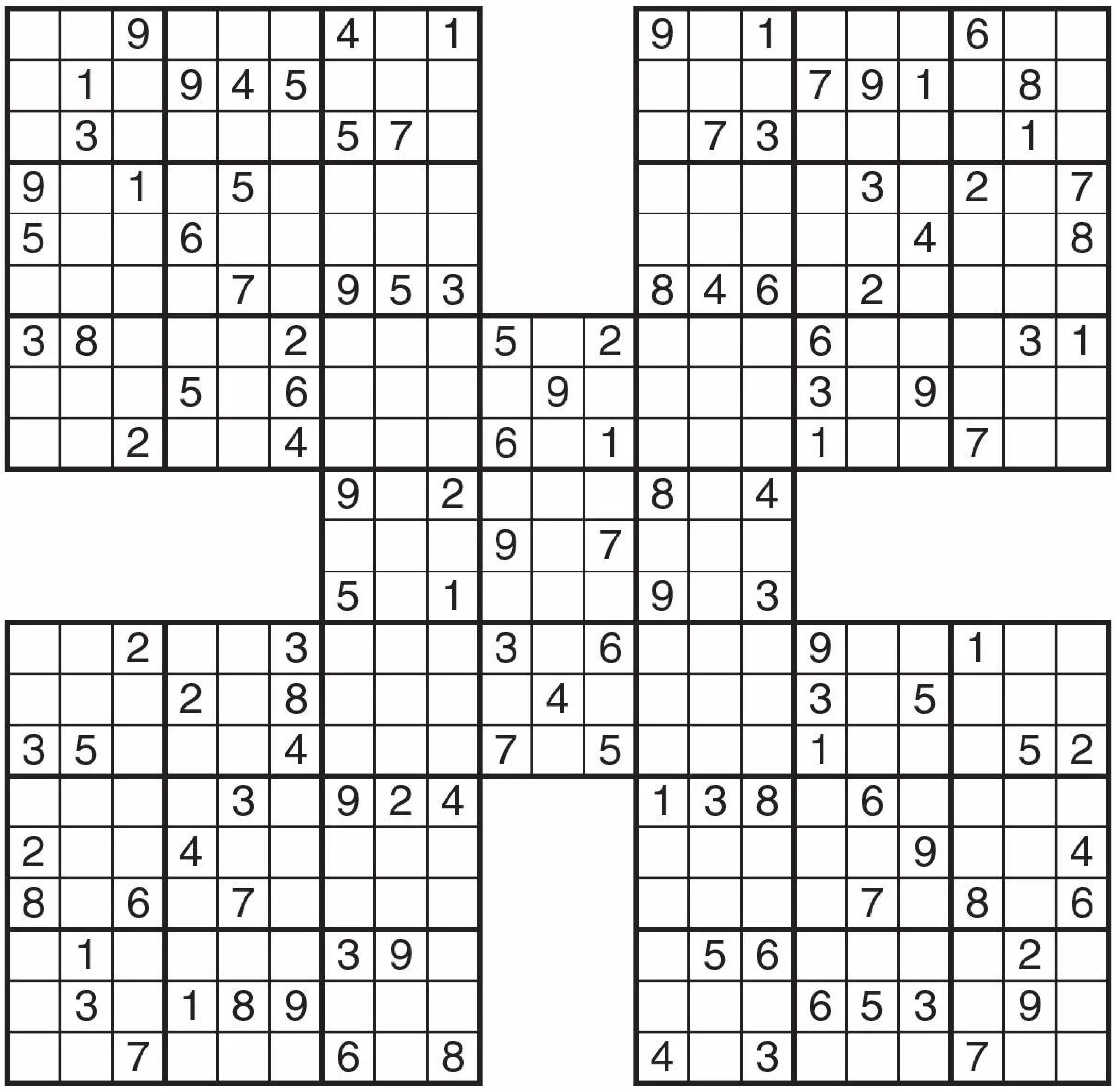
Service provider Spoke Ltd –
Helpline 0333 202 3390



SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow



		9				4		1				9		1				6		
	1		9	4	5										7	9	1		8	
	3					5	7						7	3					1	
9		1		5												3		2		7
5			6														4			8
				7		9	5	3				8	4	6		2				
3	8				2				5		2				6				3	1
			5		6					9					3		9			
		2			4				6		1				1			7		
						9		2				8		4						
									9		7									
						5		1				9		3						
		2			3				3		6				9			1		
			2		8					4					3		5			
3	5				4				7		5				1				5	2
				3		9	2	4				1	3	8		6				
2			4														9			4
8		6		7												7		8		6
	1					3	9						5	6					2	
	3		1	8	9										6	5	3		9	
		7				6		8				4		3				7		

WORD BUILDER

Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

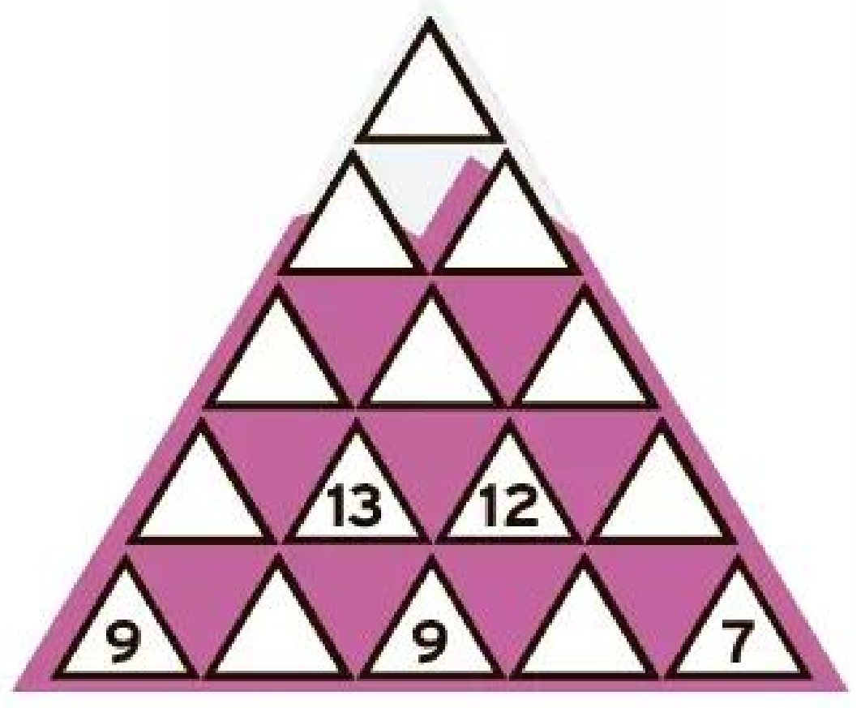
Solution tomorrow

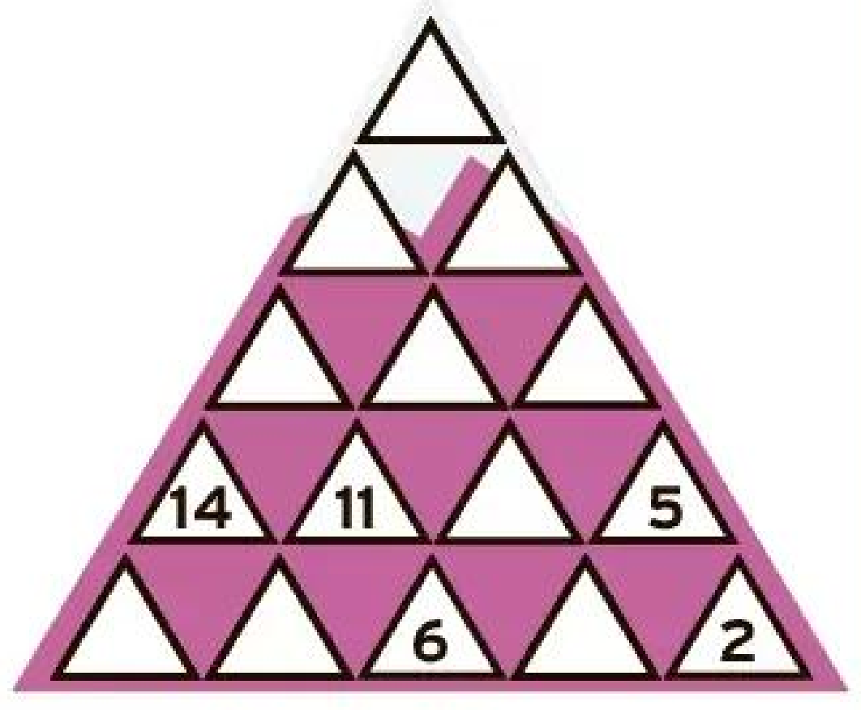
1 ☐☐☐
2 ☐☐☐☐
3 ☐☐☐☐☐
4 ☐☐☐☐☐☐
5 ☐☐☐☐☐
6 ☐☐☐☐
7 ☐☐☐

1 Hot drink
2 Satisfy
3 Sticky fruits
4 Settled
5 Horse
6 Kernel
7 View

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?



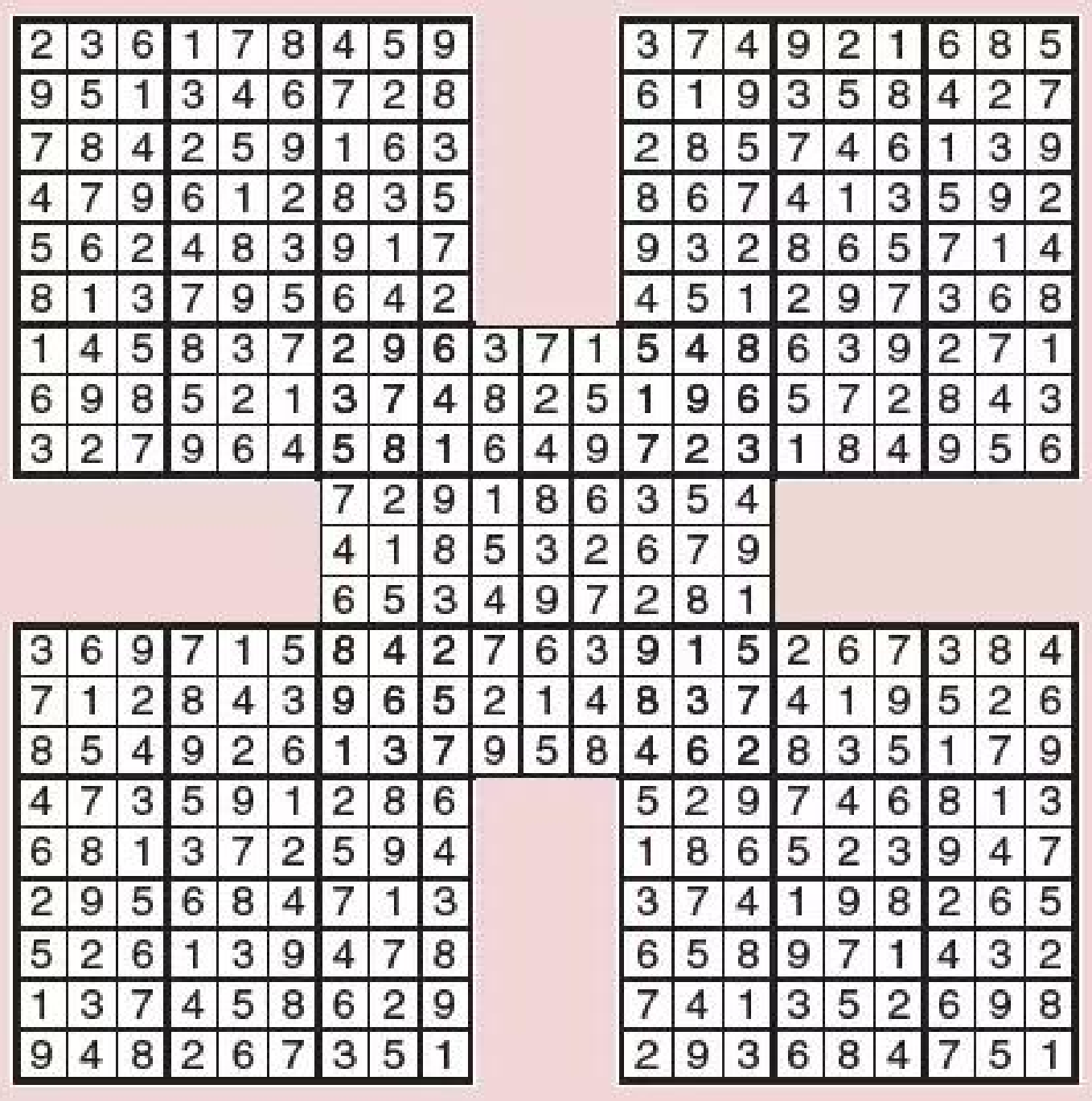


Solution tomorrow

QUIZWORD

Across:
6 Richard,
7 Nixon,
9 Our,
10 Persimmon,
12 Man In Havana,
15 Performance,
17 Pirouette,
19 Arp,
21 Roget,
22 Senegal.
Down:
1 Titus,
2 She,
3 Brie,
4 Miami Vice,
5 Bologna,
8 Ischia,
11 Mayflower,
13 Israel,
14 Venison,
16 Groan,
18 Tael,
20 Bee.

SAMURAI SUDOKU



2	3	6	1	7	8	4	5	9				3	7	4	9	2	1	6	8	5
9	5	1	3	4	6	7	2	8				6	1	9	3	5	8	4	2	7
7	8	4	2	5	9	1	6	3				2	8	5	7	4	6	1	3	9
4	7	9	6	1	2	8	3	5				8	6	7	4	1	3	5	9	2
5	6	2	4	8	3	9	1	7				9	3	2	8	6	5	7	1	4
8	1	3	7	9	5	6	4	2				4	5	1	2	9	7	3	6	8
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						7	2	9	1	8	6	3	5	4						
						4	1	8	5	3	2	6	7	9						
						6	5	3	4	9	7	2	8	1						
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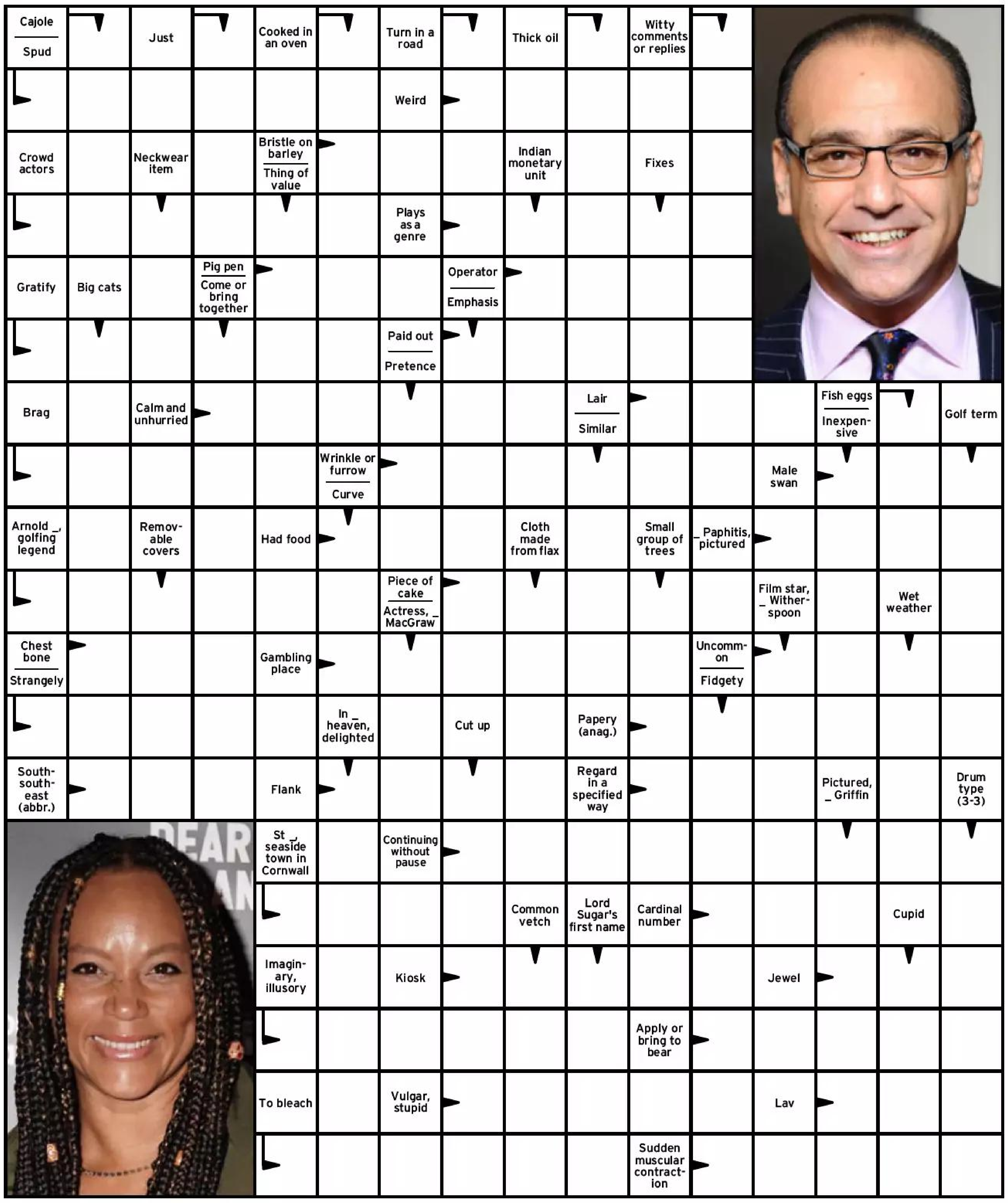
5	2	6	1	3	9	4	7	8				6	5	8	9	7	1	4	3	2
1	3	7	4	5	8	6	2	9				7	4	1	3	5	2	6	9	8
9	4	8	2	6	7	3	5	1				2	9	3	6	8	4	7	5	1

SMALL CROSSWORD

Across: **1** Obstruct, **8** Garage, **9** Nile, **10** Cop, **11** Adopts, **13** Marsupial, **15** Probes, **17** Nib, **18** Deli, **19** Tobruk, **20** Airspace.
Down: **1** Ornaments, **2** Bridal, **3** Silo, **4** Rapturous, **5** Urns, **6** Cacti, **7** Repulsive, **12** Gaelic, **14** Rabbi, **15** Purr, **16** Beta.

ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.
Solution tomorrow


Cajole
Spud
Just
Cooked in an oven
Turn in a road
Thick oil
Witty comments or replies
Weird
Crowd actors
Neckwear item
Bristle on barley
Thing of value
Indian monetary unit
Fixes
Plays as a genre
Gratify
Big cats
Pig pen
Come or bring together
Operator
Emphasis
Paid out
Pretence
Brag
Calm and unhurried
Lair
Similar
Fish eggs
Inexpensive
Golf term
Wrinkle or furrow
Curve
Male swan
Arnold _, golfing legend
Removable covers
Had food
Cloth made from flax
Small group of trees
_ Paphitis, pictured
Piece of cake
Actress, _ MacGraw
Film star, _ Witherspoon
Wet weather
Chest bone
Strangely
Gambling place
Uncommon
Fidgety
In _ heaven, delighted
Cut up
Papery (anag.)
South-south-east (abbr.)
Flank
Regard in a specified way
Pictured, _ Griffin
Drum type (3-3)
St _, seaside town in Cornwall
Continuing without pause
Common vetch
Lord Sugar's first name
Cardinal number
Cupid
Imaginary, illusory
Kiosk
Jewel
Apply or bring to bear
To bleach
Vulgar, stupid
Lav
Sudden muscular contraction

WORDSEARCH

S	Q	C	A	R	I	B	B	E	A	N	G	R	N	N
O	U	M	Y	M	V	H	M	N	A	A	Z	G	A	A
A	Q	N	L	X	G	D	S	I	T	N	L	N	C	Z
U	K	W	D	R	K	O	R	L	L	T	Q	M	I	C
S	J	K	U	A	M	U	Z	O	Q	A	G	V	R	A
T	K	G	L	A	M	T	X	R	C	R	I	Q	E	E
R	S	I	L	A	V	V	P	A	E	C	Z	E	M	N
A	T	I	N	T	P	A	N	C	G	T	O	G	A	I
L	O	G	X	D	A	A	R	T	O	I	M	C	H	P
I	H	L	K	Y	I	I	C	A	I	C	I	T	T	P
A	K	D	Z	S	J	A	T	I	B	R	O	I	U	I
N	O	J	A	H	K	A	N	O	F	I	P	S	O	L
J	J	R	L	M	M	M	X	A	C	I	A	O	S	I
J	U	A	N	D	E	F	U	C	A	S	C	N	C	H
E	N	O	R	T	H	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	P

TECTONIC PLATES

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.
Solution tomorrow

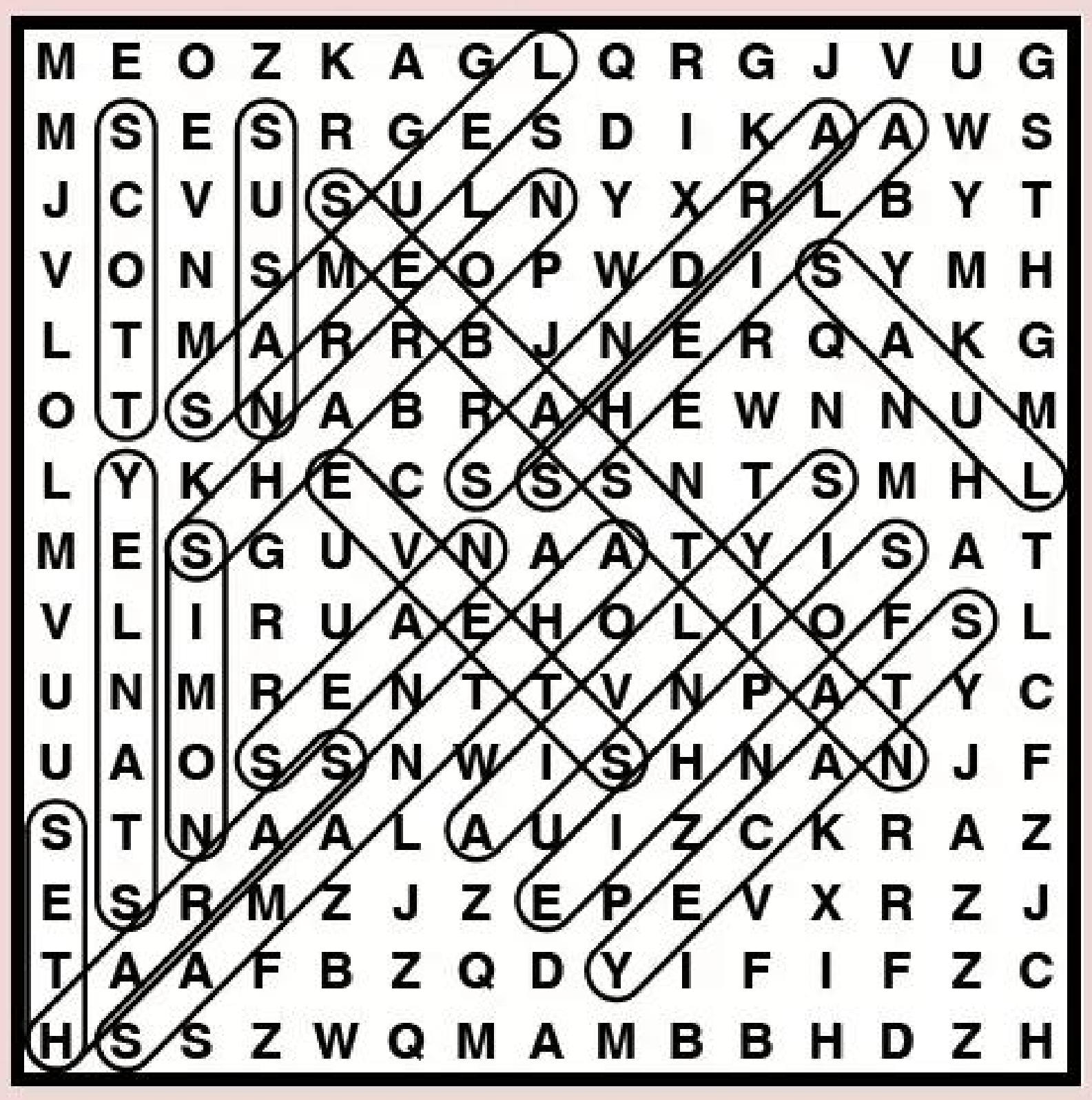
AFRICAN ● AMURIAN ● ANTARCTIC
ARABIAN ● AUSTRALIAN ● CARIBBEAN
CAROLINE ● COCOS ● EURASIAN
INDIAN ● JUAN DE FUCA ● NAZCA
NORTH AMERICAN ● OKHOTSK ● PACIFIC
PHILIPPINE ● SCOTIA ● SOMALI
SOUTH AMERICAN ● SUNDA

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Illiberal, **8** Rob, **9** Exterminate, **11** Immense, **12** Spoor, **13** Preach, **15** Inside, **17** Train, **18** Appoint, **20** Educational, **22** Nil, **23** Tasteless.
Down: 2 Lax, **3** Baron, **4** Raised, **5** Liaison, **6** Premonition, **7** Abhorrent, **10** Temperately, **11** Impatient, **14** Conduct, **16** Harass, **19** Price, **21** Ass.

WORDSEARCH



M	E	O	Z	K	A	G	L	Q	R	G	J	V	U	G
M	S	E	S	R	G	E	S	D	I	K	A	A	W	S
J	C	V	U	S	U	L	N	Y	X	R	L	B	Y	T
V	O	N	S	M	E	O	P	W	D	I	S	Y	M	H
L	T	M	A	R	R	B	J	N	E	R	Q	A	K	G
O	T	S	N	A	B	R	A	H	E	W	N	N	U	M
L	Y	K	H	E	C	S	S	S	N	T	S	M	H	L
M	E	S	G	U	V	N	A	A	T	Y	I	S	A	T
V	L	I	R	U	A	E	H	O	L	I	O	F	S	L
U	N	M	R	E	N	T	T	V	N	P	A	T	Y	C
U	A	O	S	S	N	W	I	S	H	N	A	N	J	F
S	T	N	A	A	L	A	U	I	Z	C	K	R	A	Z
E	S	R	M	Z	J	Z	E	P	E	V	X	R	Z	J
T	A	A	F	B	Z	Q	D	Y	I	F	I	F	Z	C
H	S	S	Z	W	Q	M	A	M	B	B	H	D	Z	H

ARROW-WORD

	B		K		G		A		P		D				
G	E	M	I	N	I		D	R	A	K	E				
	A		L		G	R	O	A	N		L				
S	T	R	O	N	G			T	A	M	E				
		U			L	I	P		M	E	T				
D	A	M	A	G	E	D		W	A	D	E				
	L		R			E	L	I		U		A			S
S	P	O	K	E		A		D	I	S	A	L	L	O	W
		L		V	U	L	N	E	R	A	B	L	E		A
G	I	L	L	A	N		E		O		E		E	B	B
	D	Y	E		D	E	T	O	N	A	T	E		A	
	O		S	H	O	P		V		R		N	E	A	T
A	L	A	S		U	S	H	E	R	E	T	T	E		E
					B		A	N	O	N		I	C	E	D
				S	T	O	P		T	A	L	C		U	
					E		P	E	A		Y	E	A	R	N
				E	D	G	E		T	O	N		V	E	E
					L		N	E	E		A	L	I	K	E
				E	Y	E	S		S	U	M		D	A	D

SUDOKU EASY

8	9	7	5	1	2	4	6	3
1	2	5	6	3	4	8	9	7
3	6	4	9	8	7	5	2	1
6	7	3	1	9	8	2	4	5
9	4	8	7	2	5	1	3	6
5	1	2	3	4	6	9	7	8
2	8	6	4	5	3	7	1	9
7	5	1	2	6	9	3	8	4
4	3	9	8	7	1	6	5	2

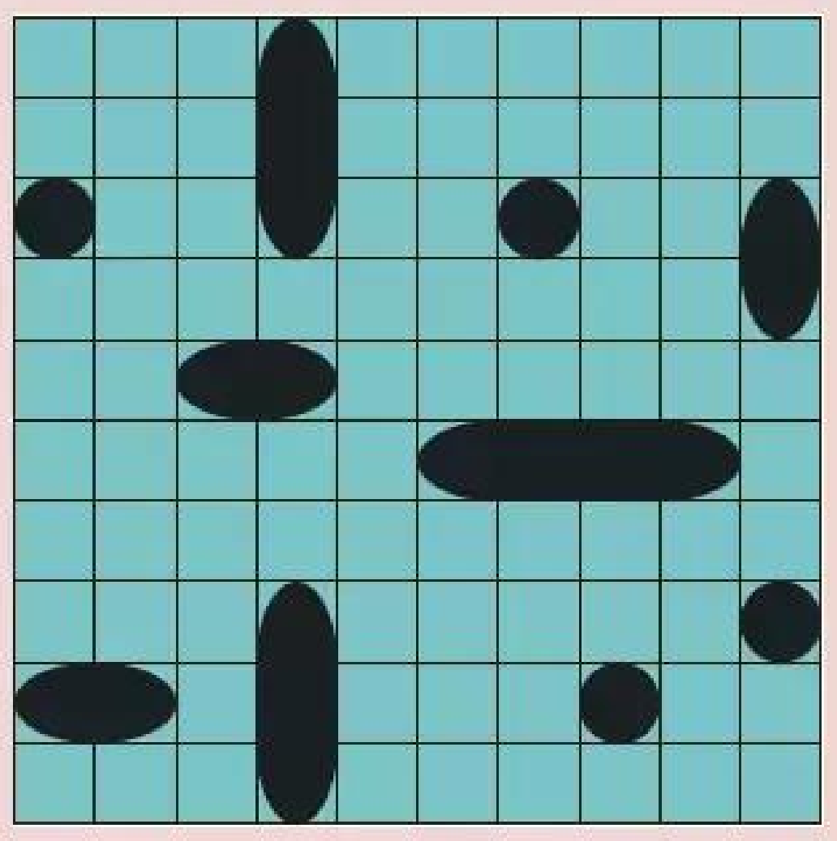
SUDOKU MEDIUM

8	6	3	7	2	1	5	9	4
1	9	7	8	4	5	6	3	2
2	4	5	9	6	3	7	8	1
4	1	2	3	8	6	9	5	7
6	5	8	2	9	7	1	4	3
3	7	9	5	1	4	8	2	6
9	8	1	4	7	2	3	6	5
7	3	4	6	5	8	2	1	9
5	2	6	1	3	9	4	7	8

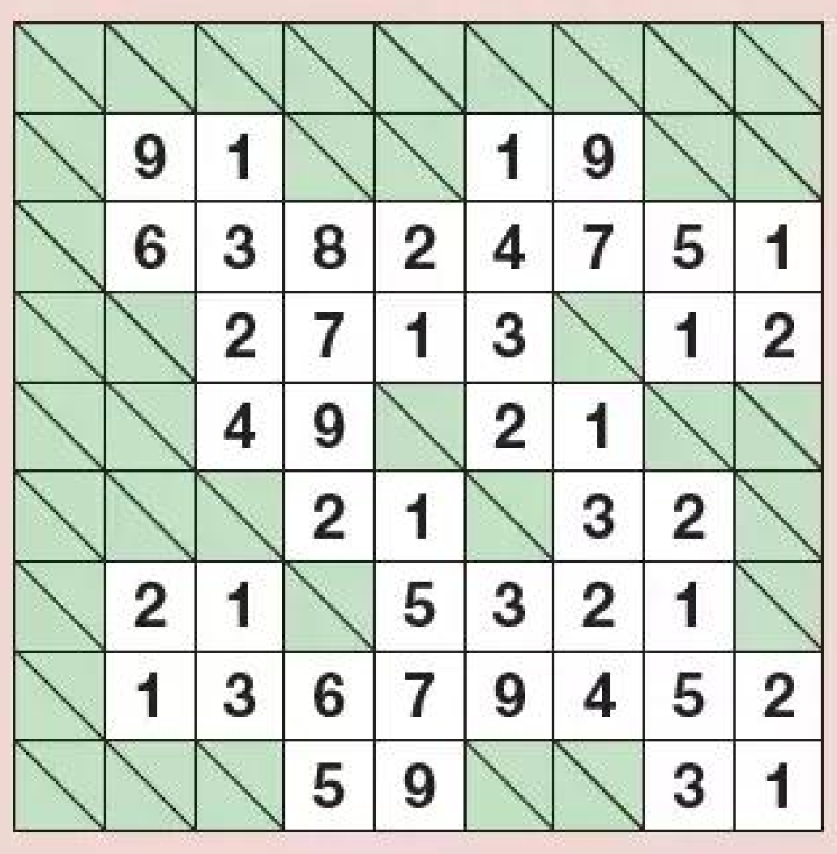
SUDOKU DIFFICULT

4	1	8	5	7	6	9	2	3
3	7	2	1	8	9	4	6	5
9	6	5	3	4	2	1	7	8
5	2	1	9	6	7	3	8	4
6	9	4	8	5	3	2	1	7
7	8	3	2	1	4	6	5	9
2	5	9	7	3	1	8	4	6
1	4	7	6	9	8	5	3	2
8	3	6	4	2	5	7	9	1

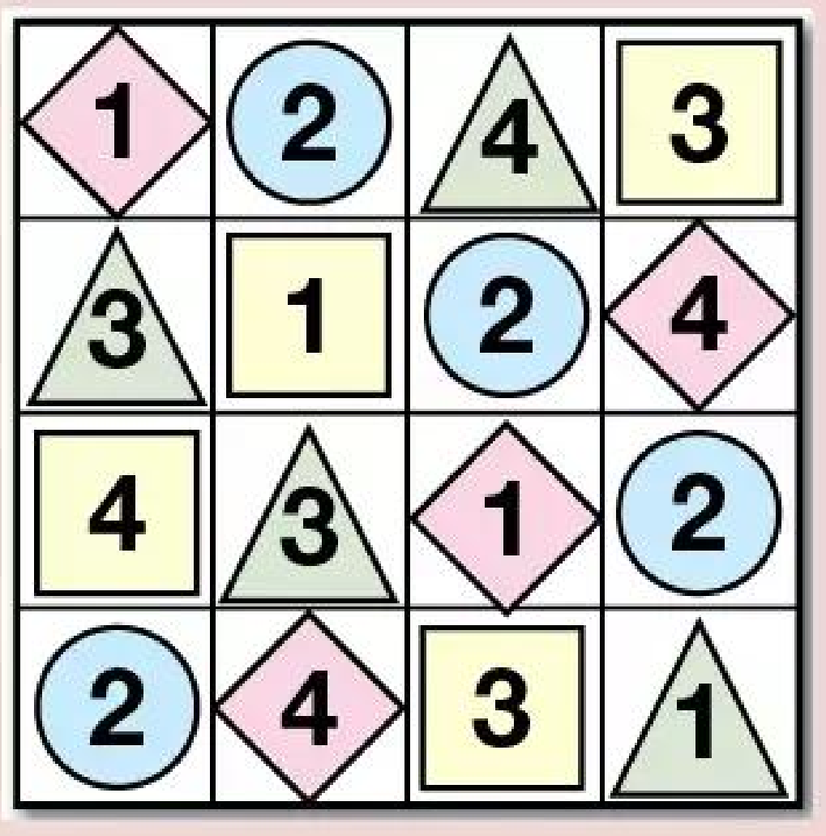
BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO



KEIJO



TARGET

UNDERTOOK
drunk, duke, dunk, kendo, kent, knot, knur, koto, krone, nook, nuke, nuked, retook, rook, rooked, toke, toked, token, toker, took, trek, trunk, UNDERTOOK

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Reggae, Eating, Fox, Stir, Gift, Squelch, Wake, Toys, Lease, Elan, Joke, Ochre, Pike, Dram, Reverse (clue), Gala, Bout, Ria, Defect, Dither.
Down: Whelp, Extra, Image, Knack, Gorse, Erase, Effuse, Covert, Ash, Exults, Reread, Tight, Debut, Odour, Nifty, Azure, Steam.

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 3, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 23, 25, 27, 32, 34, 37.
Across: Another, Matter, Flexing, Verbal, Staler, Train, Lucky, Foetal, Cravat, Queenly, Brazed, Writhed.
Down: Affix, Placebo, Operatic, Afar, Playmaker, Eons, Gruff, Purr, Majesties, Stub, Amaranth, Prolong, Toyed.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: ROLLS
Down: DRUMS

SUMMIT UP

89 and 100

WORD BUILDER

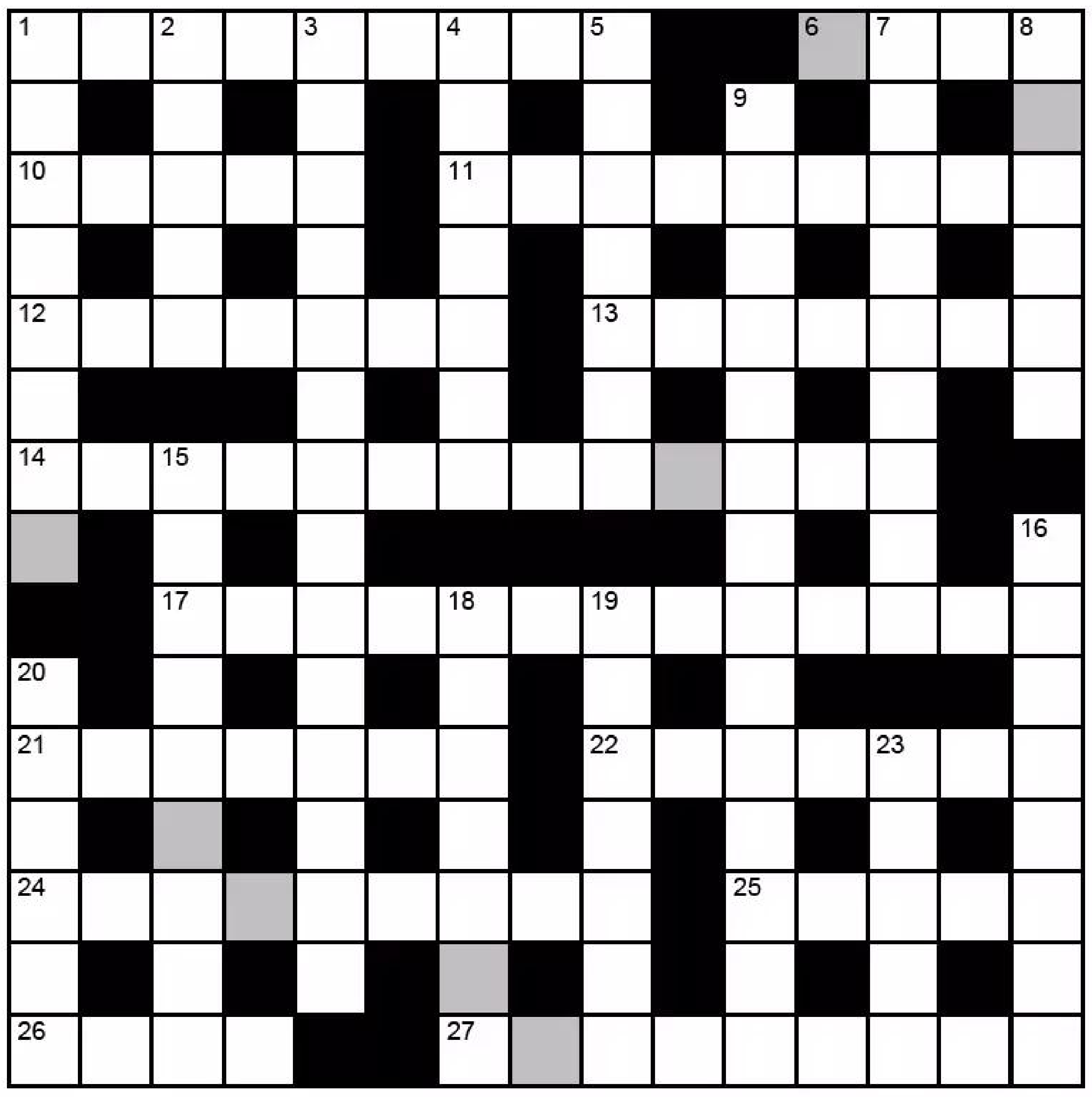
Die, Side, Spied, Spiced, Epics, Ices, Sic

Puzzles

CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Invoice includes a rate review on both sides (9)
6 Father's son starts health resorts (4)
10 Raced off to get a tree (5)
11 Explorer finding a prom cool, unusually (5,4)
12 Attendant set out hospital room (7)
13 Stopped criticising and got sacked (4,3)
14 Flower for continental woman (7,6)
17 Rural figure to land cod, back by hill (7,6)
21 Somewhere to put weapon? That woman has lost out (7)
22 Lacking humour, you formerly went in (7)
24 Obvious about new fib being more neat (9)
25 Act it out in the loft (5)
26 Malice, removing parking location (4)
27 Iceland – it turned out the same (9)

DOWN
1 Returned with teas, brewed for some drivers (8)
2 Register a gatehouse (5)
3 Green auditor is a bookie (4,10)
4 Knock a karate expert fast (7)
5 Role played by garland and siren (7)
7 Copy pictures? Rubbish! (9)
8 Ridicules South Carolina, leaving south (6)
9 Voluntary agreement to make party shrink (6,8)
15 Remember about stockpile (9)
16 Reviewer finds a student very important (8)
18 Ends expression in middle of article (7)
19 You initially were worried about time, energy and growth (3,4)
20 Baby birds caught by yokels (6)
23 Choose one key to drinks dispenser (5)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, January 8, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by January 9 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.

● *One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.*

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME
ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TUESDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Belt, 3 Teddy bears, 9 Nuts, 10 Figurative, 11 Marshmallow, 15 Satirised, 17 Trite, 18 Earth, 19 At present, 20 Astonishing, 24 Aristocrat, 25 Coda, 26 Brandysnap, 27 Edge. **DOWN:** 1 Bandmaster, 2 Literature, 4 Erica, 5 Double dip, 6 Bear witness, 7 Akin, 8 Stem, 12 Hardhearted, 13 Livelihood, 14 Centigrade, 16 Spartacus, 21 Nyala, 22 Lamb, 23 Pisa. **Prizeword:** Taunting

TARGET

I	V	Y
L	**I**	A
T	R	L

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

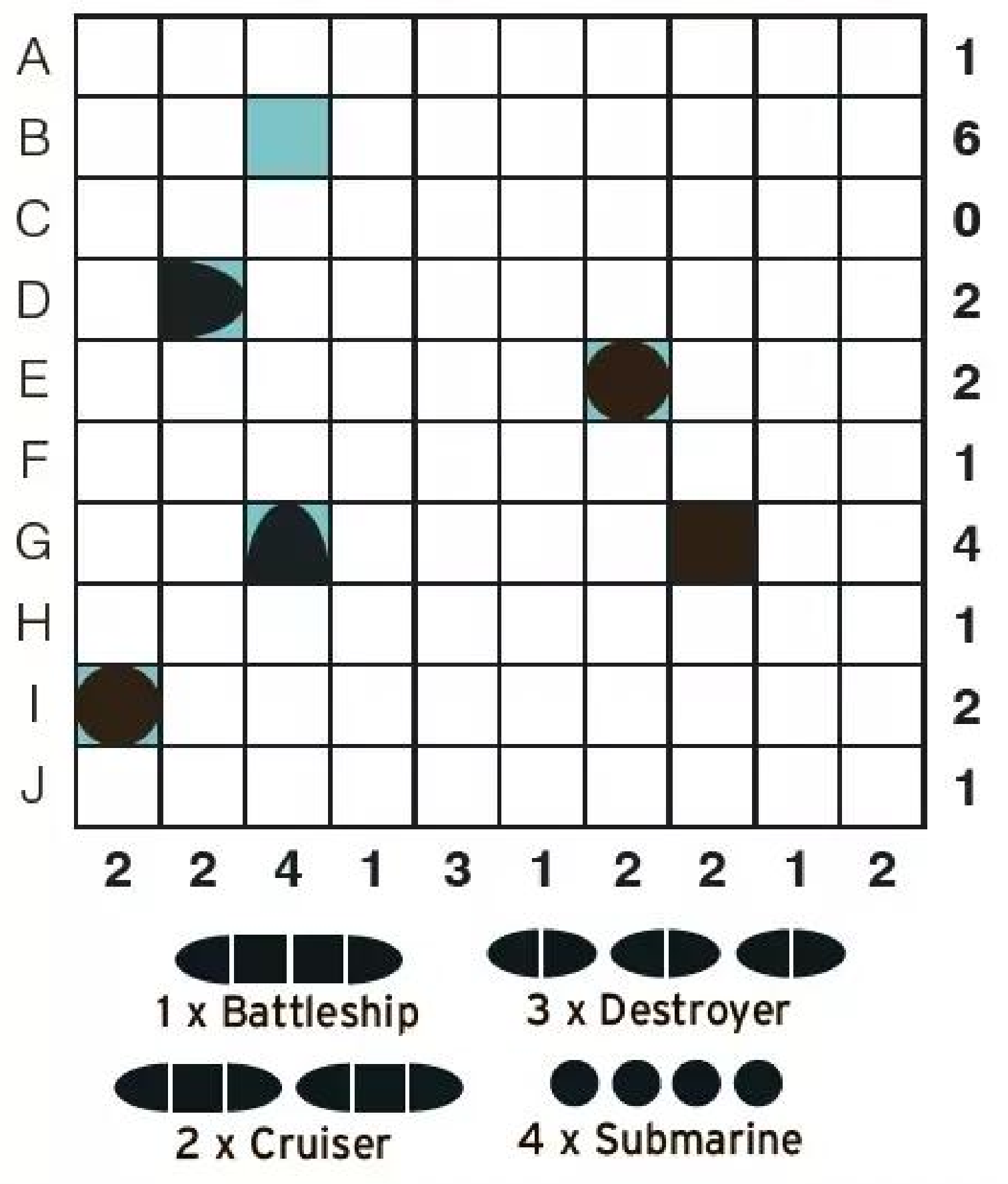
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 13; **very good** 20; **excellent** 26 **(or more). Solution tomorrow**

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution tomorrow



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 36 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution tomorrow

Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

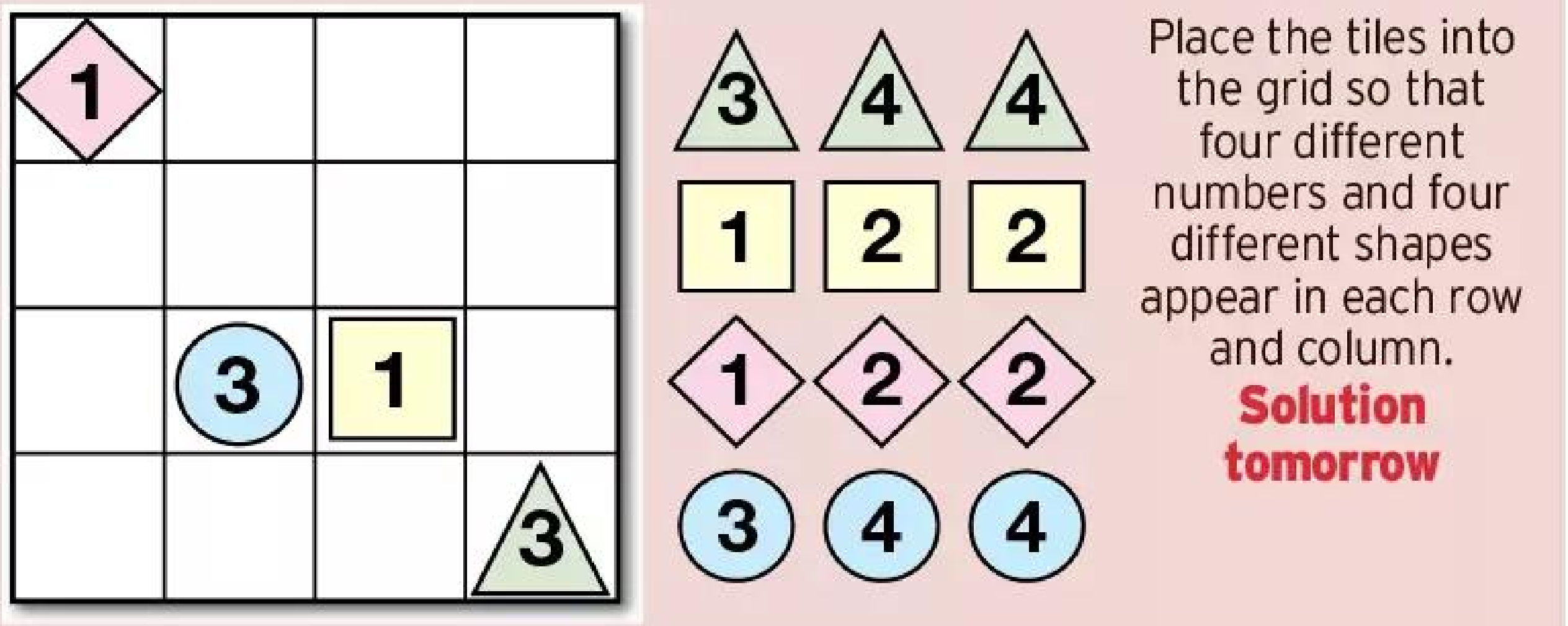
A ~~B~~	33	27	8	37	17	31	28	6	21	18	26	21	22
C D	18	8	24	5	31	38	12	4	3	29	14	31	9
E F	12	36	36	14	17	6	35	32	8	32	11	8	5
G H	38	37	26	4	31	34	29	17	21	3	12	2	21
I J	23	17	37	24	34	16	36	11	9	38	18	40	16
~~K~~ L	22	12	16	23	12	30	12	34	32	19	20	6	20
M N	25	2	17	29	33	5	2	11	20	8	2	31	9
O ~~P~~	5	18	16	25	26	34	8	36	1	10	24	34	28
Q R	26	7	20	33	39	6	3	4	8	28	15	17	39
S T	19	17	7	12	2	21	17	40	10	33	22	13	32
U V	24	36	16	38	8	28	36	5	8	34	25	14	27
W X	25	10	34	8	30	11	37	26	1	4	20	12	11
Y Z	4	34	38	22	36	16	32	17	21	34	12	21	32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
K										■									

21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
				B								■						P	

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT to 64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO



Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution tomorrow

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. **Solution tomorrow**
DIFFICULTY: 9/10; **TARGET:** 28 mins; **CLUE:** Hide penniless state endlessly

A B	■	12	■	1	■	23	■	18	■	9	■	1	■
C D	25	2	1	17	19	17	■	2	19	5	21	2	3
E F	■	15	■	17	■	26	21	12	■	21	■	5	■
G H	4	25	2	19	■	4	■	14	■	18	21	3	14
I J	■	5	■	■	15	17	6	26	21	■	■	14	■
K L	3	14	5	23	21	■	17	■	6	26	21	18	19
M N	17	■	■	■	4	2	16	23	20	■	■	■	17
~~O~~ P	23	22	2	15	25	■	14	■	4	7	8	21	23
Q R	■	21	■	■	4	14	26	9	4	■	■	10	■
S T	8	24	5	20	■	21	■	17	■	11	14	21	5
U ~~V~~	■	24	■	17	■	4	21	24	■	17	■	5	■
W X	13	2	19	24	5	14	■	24	21	5	5	14	20
Y Z	■	4	■	21	■	5	■	20	■	14	■	21	■

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
										V		

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			O									

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** *to* **64343.** *Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.*

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THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 38; INTERMEDIATE = 13; ADVANCED = 243.

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Editor's letter

Whether you're a knitting novice or a seasoned expert, Simply Knitting is here to inspire makers of all levels.

In this issue, you'll find a beautifully textured stitch cardigan, a bright Fair Isle hat and cowl set, and an irresistibly cuddly teddy – perfect projects to spark your creativity.

Plus, don't miss your exclusive digital download: a bonus bookazine packed with even more patterns and inspiration to keep your needles clicking and ideas flowing.

Kirstie

Kirstie McLeod, Editor, Simply Knitting
IG @simplyknittingmag
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GREAT KNITS FOR LITTLE ONES!
PLUS...

Cosy in clover

So comfy! Spend lazy weekends in luxurious comfort with Siân Brown's cleverly constructed cardigan.

HOW TO MAKE...
A CARDIGAN

MATERIALS

- Alpaca Select, INTI DK (50% alpaca, 50% acrylic, 50g/105m)
- For Yarn amounts see Size chart For yarn stockists contact Alpaca Select 02476 411776 www.alpacaselect.co.uk
- A pair of 3¾mm needles
- A pair of 4mm needles
- A 3¾mm circular needle, 80-100cm long
- A 4mm circular needle, 80-100cm long

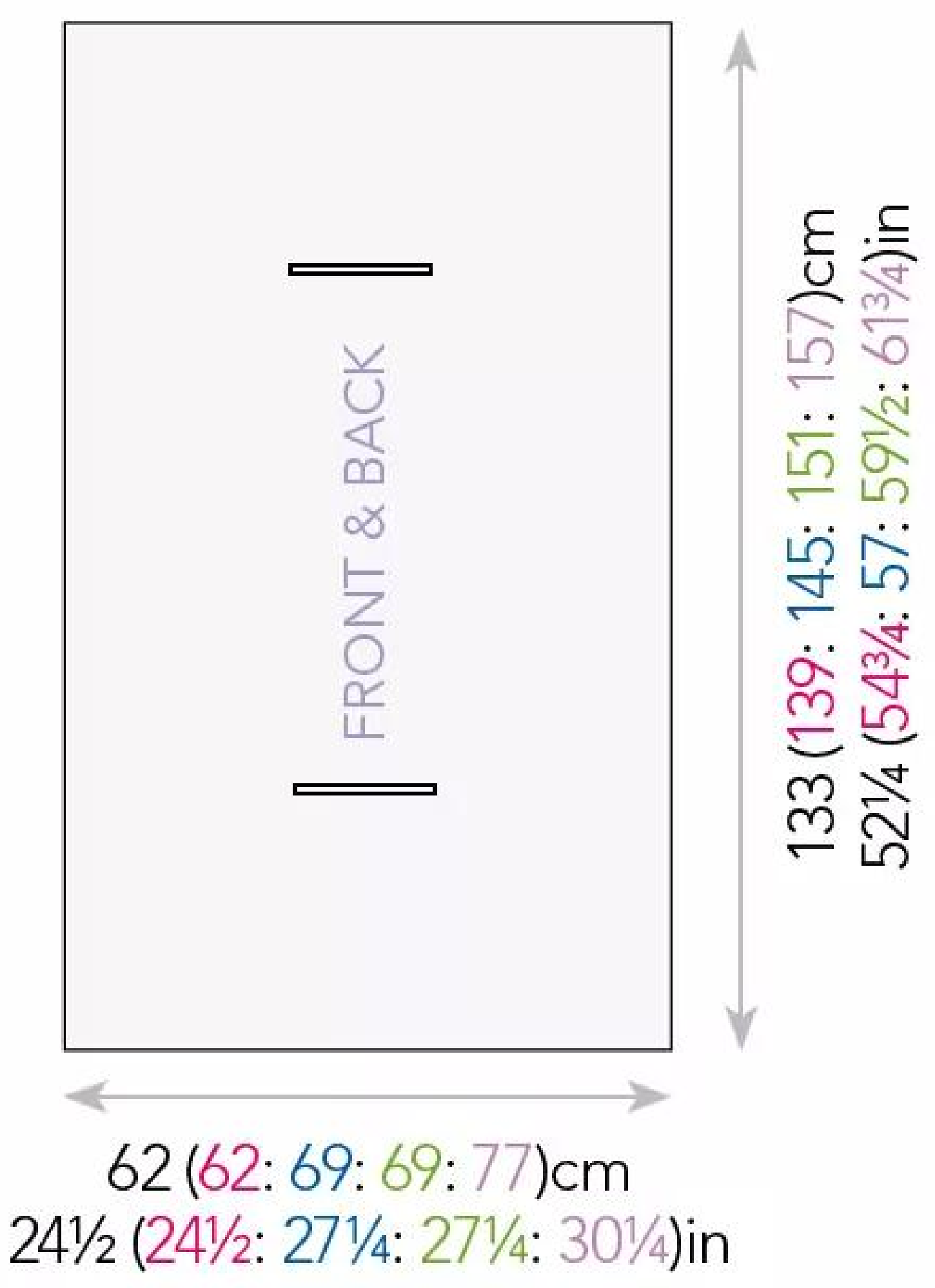
TENSION

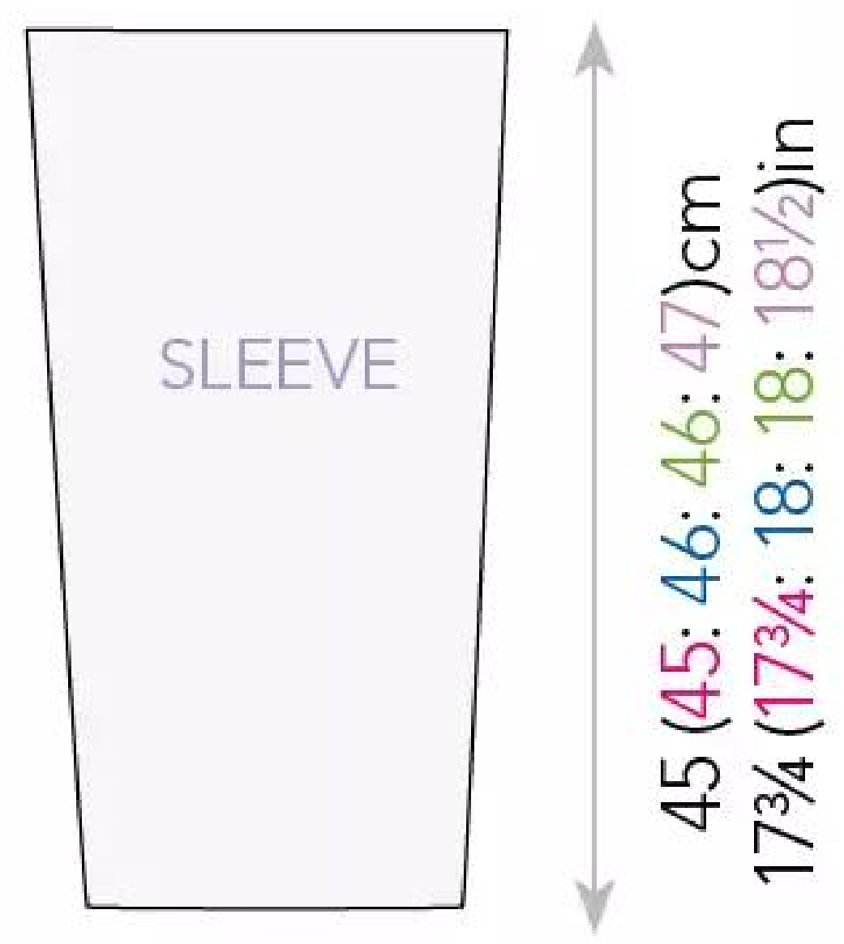
- **Yarn used knits as DK to this tension:** 24 sts and 30 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over pattern using 4mm needles

FIND YOUR SIZE

SIZE		8-10	12-14	16-18	20-22	24-26
TO FIT BUST	cm	82-86	92-97	102-107	112-117	122-127
	in	32-34	36-38	40-42	44-46	48-50
ACTUAL WIDTH	cm	133	139	145	151	157
	in	52¼	54¾	57	59½	61¾
LENGTH	cm	62	62	69	69	77
	in	24½	24½	27¼	27¼	30¼
SLEEVE LENGTH	cm	45	45	46	46	47
	in	17¾	17¾	18	18	18½
YARN		Alpaca Select, INTI DK (50g/105m balls)				
Lilac (25)		16	17	19	20	22

SIZING COLOUR KEY So you can re-use this pattern, we've colour-coded the sizing instructions. Simply follow our colour-coded measurements and you're off.


FRONT & BACK
133 (139: 145: 151: 157)cm
52¼ (54¾: 57: 59½: 61¾)in
62 (62: 69: 69: 77)cm
24½ (24½: 27¼: 27¼: 30¼)in



Prepare to wear this comfortable cardigan over and over again this season.

Its clever construction means you knit the back and fronts in one piece (it's actually just a big rectangle with two slits in). This makes working the chevron pattern stitch super easy as there's no complicated shaping to incorporate. Made up of 16 rows, the knit and purl pattern is quickly picked up, giving you the confidence to knit at speed if you want to.

Oversized and incredibly simple to wear, you'll soon discover this one-in-a-million knit goes with jeans and dresses, skirts and shorts – it's the perfect addition to your winter wardrobe!

Alpaca Select INTI comes in a whopping 34 soft & beautiful shades

The cardigan's sleeves are knitted separately and then set into the slits on the back/front piece.

BACK AND FRONTS

Note This section is worked in one piece starting at the bottom of the right side.

Cast on 149 (**149**: **167**: **167**: **185**) sts using a 3¾mm circular needle.

Knit 5 rows.

Change to 4mm circular needle.

Row 1 K2, P1, *(K2, P2) twice, K1, (P2, K2) twice, P1; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 2 K3, *(P2, K2) twice, P1, (K2, P2) twice, K1; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Rows 3 and 4 As Rows 1 and 2.

Row 5 K2, (P2, K2) twice, *P3, K2, P2, K2; rep from * to last 4 sts, P2, K2.

Row 6 K4, P2, K2, P2, *K3, P2, K2, P2; rep from * to last 4 sts, K4.

Rows 7 and 8 As Rows 5 and 6.

Row 9 K3, *(P2, K2) twice, P1, (K2, P2) twice, K1; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 10 K2, P1, *(K2, P2) twice, K1, (P2, K2) twice, P1; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Rows 11 and 12 As Rows 9 and 10.

Row 13 K4, P2, K2, P2, *K3, P2, K2, P2; rep from * to last 4 sts, K4.

Row 14 K2, (P2, K2) twice, *P3, K2, P2, K2; rep from * to last 4 sts, P2, K2.

Rows 15 and 16 As Rows 13 and 14.

These 16 rows form the patt with garter stitch edging.

Rep the last 16 rows until work measures 45cm from cast-on edge, ending with a WS row.

»

HOW TO MAKE... A CARDIGAN

ARMHOLE OPENING

Next row Patt 26 (28: 30: 32: 34), **cast off** loosely 40 (40: 45: 45: 50) sts, patt to end.
Next row Work to end, **casting on** 40 (40: 45: 45: 50) sts, over those cast off in previous row.
Cont in patt for a further 43 (49: 55: 61: 67)cm ending with a WS row.

ARMHOLE OPENING

Next row Patt 26 (28: 30: 32: 34), **cast off** loosely 40 (40: 45: 45: 50) sts, patt to end.
Next row Work to end, **casting on** 40 (40: 45: 45: 50) sts, over those cast off in previous row.
Cont in patt for a further 43cm ending with a RS row.
Change to 3¾mm circular needle.
K 5 rows.
Cast off.

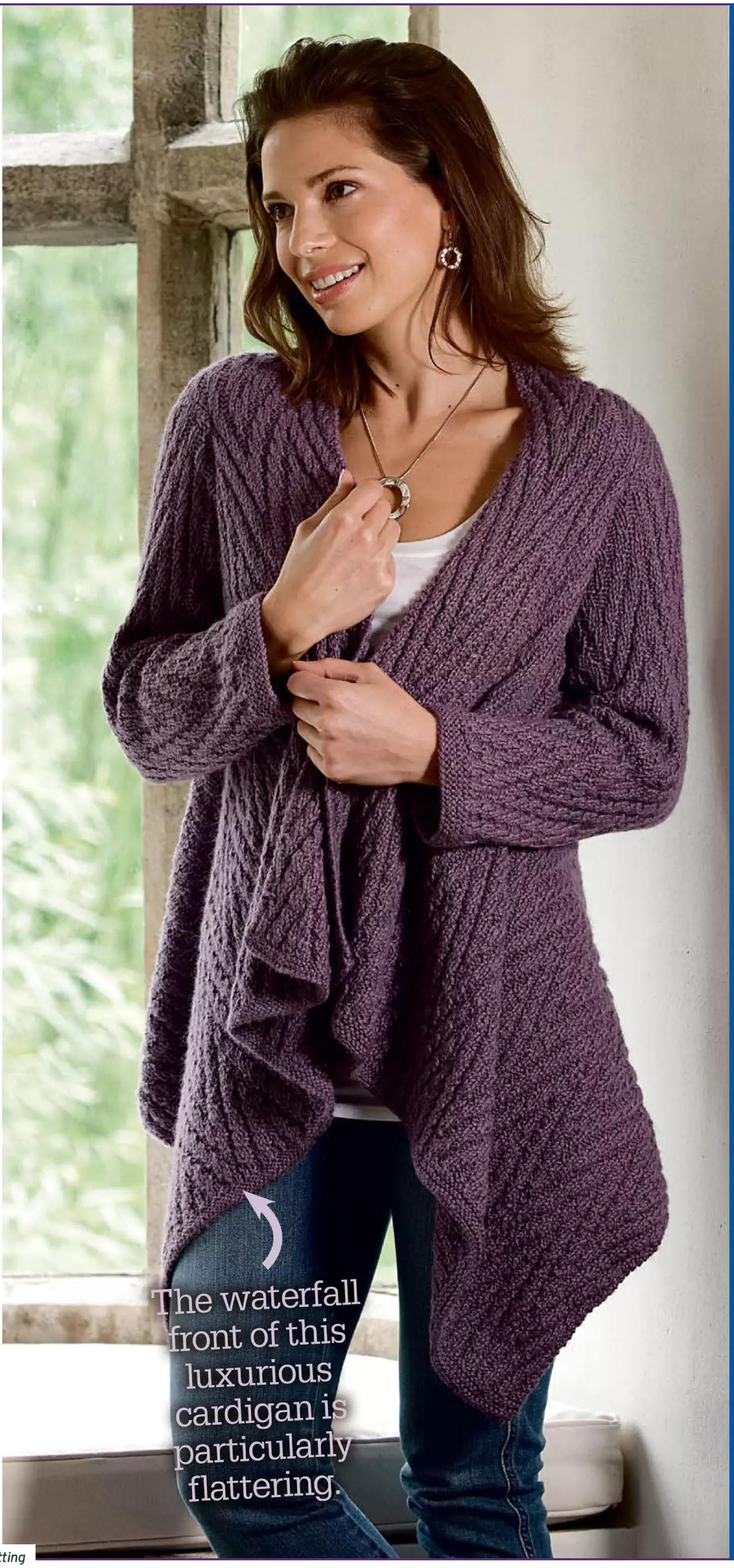
SLEEVES

Cast on 55 (55: 55: 73: 73) sts using 3¾mm needles.
K 9 rows.
Change to 4mm needles.
Row 1 P1, *(K2, P2) twice, K1, (P2, K2) twice, P1; rep from * to end.
Row 2 K1, *(P2, K2) twice, P1, (K2, P2) twice, K1; rep from * to end.
Rows 3 and 4 As Rows 1 and 2.
Row 5 (P2, K2) twice, *P3, K2, P2, K2; rep from * to last 2 sts, P2.
Row 6 (K2, P2) twice, *K3, P2, K2, P2; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.
Rows 7 and 8 As Rows 5 and 6.
Row 9 K1, *(P2, K2) twice, P1, (K2, P2) twice, K1; rep from * to end.
Row 10 P1, *(K2, P2) twice, K1, (P2, K2) twice, P1; rep from * to end.
Rows 11 and 12 As Rows 9 and 10.
Row 13 (K2, P2) twice, *K3, P2, K2, P2; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.
Row 14 (P2, K2) twice, *P3, K2, P2, K2; rep from * to last 2 sts, P2.
Rows 15 and 16 As Rows 13 and 14.
These 16 rows form the patt.

Inc 1 st at each end of the next row and every foll 8th (8th: 6th: 12th: 8th) row until there are 83 (83: 93: 93: 103) sts, taking new sts into pattern.
Cont straight until sleeve measures 45 (45: 46: 46: 47)cm from cast-on edge, ending with a WS row.
Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

Join Sleeve seams. Sew in Sleeves.



The waterfall front of this luxurious cardigan is particularly flattering.

All thi brig

Add a vibrant t
to your winter v
with Sophie Jo
geometric-insp
hat and cowl.

HOW TO MAKE... A HAT AND COWL

MATERIALS

- King Cole, Luxury Merino DK (100% wool, 50g/125m) 2 balls of each:
- **Yarn A** Hyacinth (2628)
- **Yarn B** Cobalt (2635)
- **Yarn C** Fuchsia (2633)
  For yarn stockists contact King Cole www.kingcole.com
- A 3mm circular needle (40cm long)
- A 3½mm circular needle (40cm long)
- Dressmakers pins for the hat's top seam
- Lova Fur Bobble in Fox Sleek Grey from www.lovafur.at

TENSION

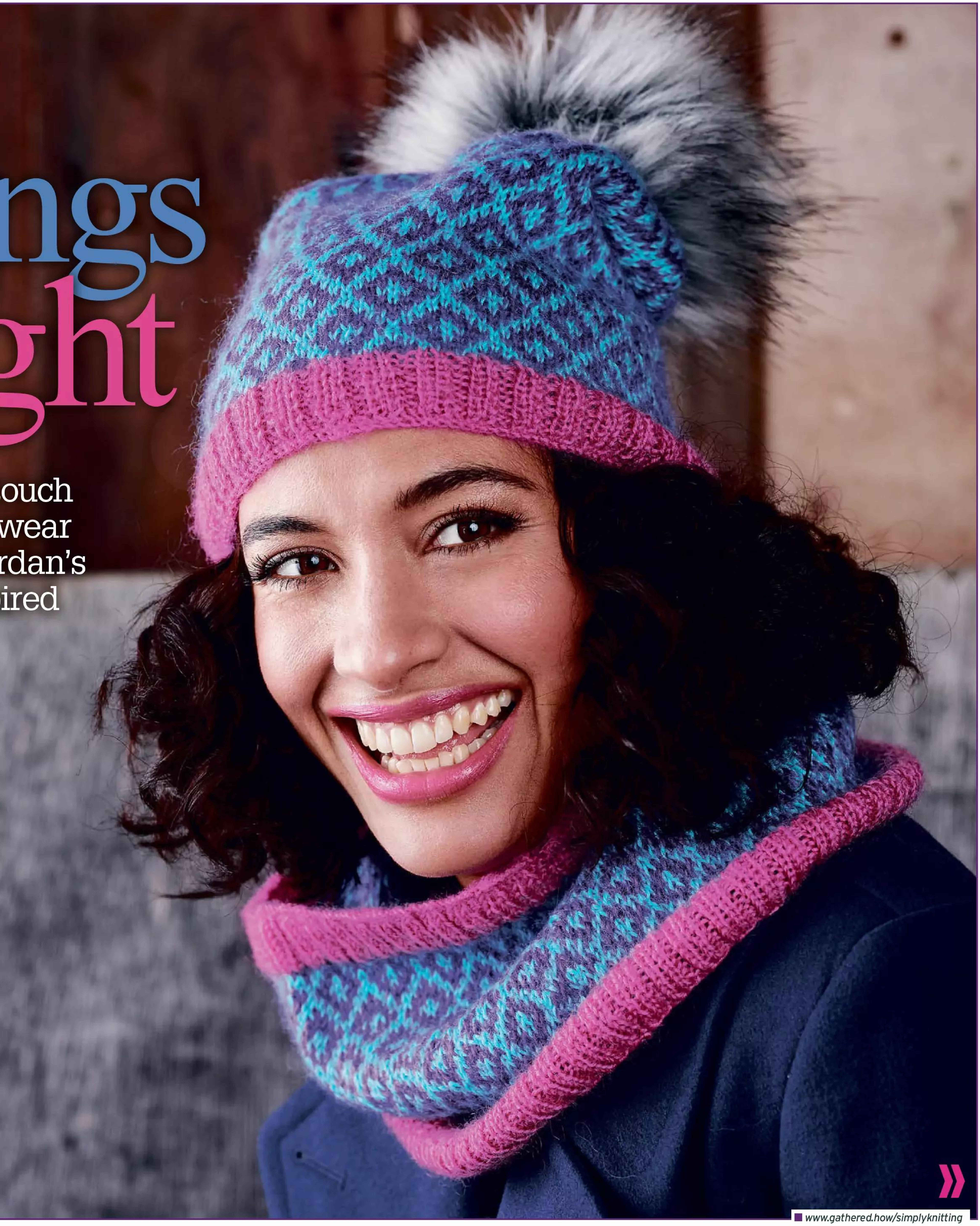
- Yarn used knits as DK to this tension:
  33 sts and 29 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over patt using 3mm needles
  28 sts and 23 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over patt using 3.5mm needles

MEASUREMENTS

- Hat 50cm (19¾in) circumference
- Cowl 68cm (26¾in) circumference, 20cm (8in) tall

ngs ght

ouch wear rdan's ired



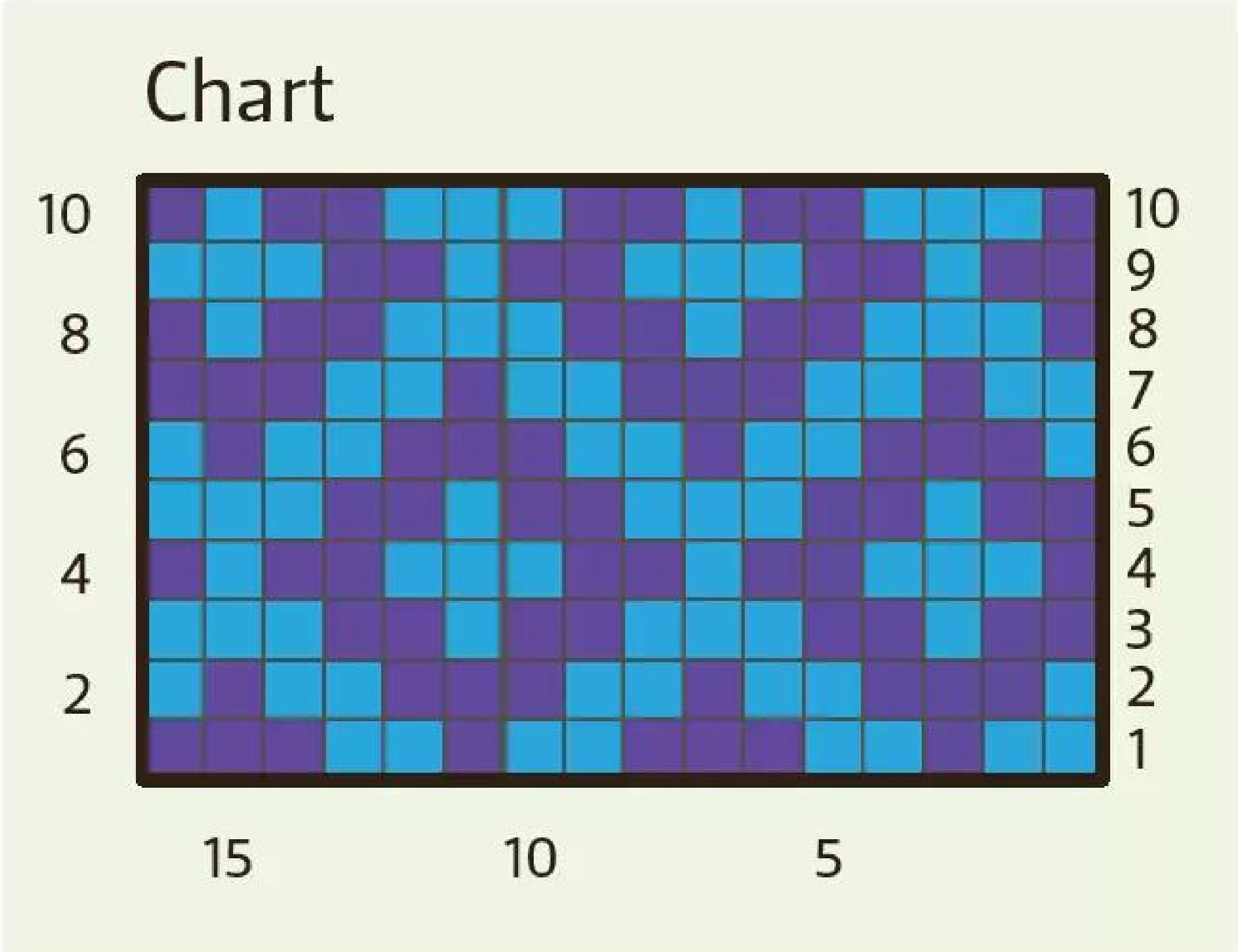
»

HOW TO MAKE... A HAT AND COWL

When knitting colourwork in pure wool, blocking your work will make all the difference.

HOW TO USE OUR CHARTS

Start at the bottom right-hand corner. Read the chart rows as indicated in the pattern. A row of squares represents a row of knitting.



KEY

🟪 Yarn A 🟦 Yarn B

HAT

Note The hat is knitted flat, back and forth on a circular needle and seamed at the back. When working the Chart, read RS rows from right to left and WS rows from left to right.

Cast on 144 stitches using 3mm needles and Yarn C.
Row 1 (WS) *K1tbl; rep from * to end.

Row 2 *K2, P2; rep from * to end.
Repeat last row 7 more times ending with a WS row.

Change to 3½mm needles.
Repeat Rows 1-10 of the Chart until the hat measures 22cm ending with a WS row.
Cast off.

Block hat shape carefully, following any instructions on the yarn ball band.

MAKING UP

Sew the back seam right-sides facing. Manipulate the top edges of the hat into an 'X' shape and pin in place. Seam the 'legs' of the cross using a length of Yarn B. Turn right sides out. Sew on the furry bobble using Yarn B.

COWL

Note The cowl is knitted in the round on a circular needle. When working the chart, read all rows from right to left.

Cast on 224 Stitches using 3mm circular needle and Yarn C.
Join into the round, being careful not to twist sts and place marker to denote the beginning of the round.
Next round *K1tbl; rep from * to end.
Next round *K2, P2; repeat from * to end.
Repeat last round 7 more times.

Repeat Rows 1-10 of the Chart until the cowl measures 17cm from cast-on edge.

Change to Yarn C.
Next round Knit.
Next round *K2, P2; repeat from * to end.
Repeat last round until the rib section measures 4cm.
Cast off in rib.

Block cowl shape flat following any instructions on the yarn ball band.

Cuddle time

Always good for snuggles and hugs, Benji Bear is so super soft that little ones will never want to let him go

HOW TO MAKE... A TEDDY BEAR

MATERIALS

- Sirdar Snuggly Snowflake Chunky (100% polyester, 25g/85m) 2 balls of **Yarn A** Teddy Bear (201)
- Hayfield Bonus DK (100% acrylic, 100g/280m) 1 ball of **Yarn B** Denim (994) For yarn stockists contact Sirdar 01924 231682 www.sirdar.co.uk
- A pair of 4mm needles
- Toy stuffing
- 2 toy safety eyes, 12mm diameter
- Stitch holder
- Oddment of black acrylic 4ply yarn, to embroider the nose

TENSION

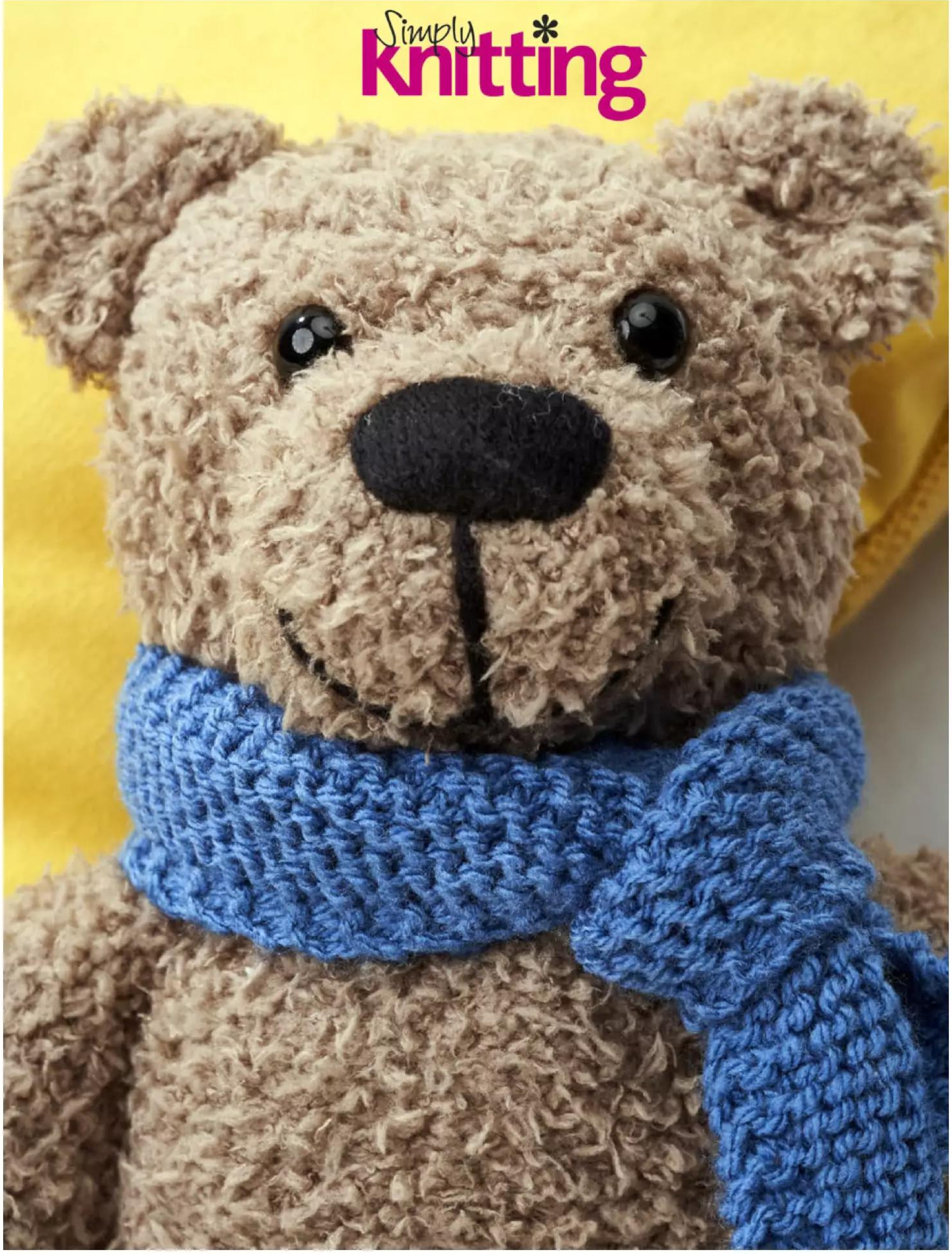
- 20 sts and 29 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st in Sirdar Snuggly using 4mm needles
- 22 sts and 28 rows to measure 10x10cm (4x4in) over st st in Hayfield Bonus using 4mm needles

MEASUREMENTS

- 29cm tall

TOP TIP

Before embroidering faces, draw on the features with tailor's chalk until you're happy with the expression before you commit to stitching. Use it as a template, and always sew the features after you have stuffed the toy, as this will ensure a smooth, unpuckered result.



HOW TO MAKE... A TEDDY BEAR

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Cast on 22 sts using 4mm needles and Yarn A.

Rows 1 to 35 Starting on a WS purl row, work in stocking stitch.

Row 36 (K2tog) 11 times. [11 sts]

Break yarn and thread through rem sts. Pull tight to fasten.

HEAD, BODY AND LEGS

Start by working the First Leg.

Cast on 24 sts using 4mm needles and Yarn A.

Rows 1 to 32 Starting on a WS purl row, work in st st.

Break Yarn A and transfer the 24 sts to a stitch holder.

Work the Second Leg in the same way, breaking Yarn A but keeping sts on working needle.

Transfer the held 24 sts for the First Leg from the stitch holder onto the knitting needle next to the Second Leg sts. [48 sts]

With WS facing, rejoin Yarn A.

Rows 1 to 33 Starting on a WS purl row, work in st st.

Row 34 (K2tog) 24 times. [24 sts]

Row 35 (Neckline) Purl.

Row 36 (Kfb) 24 times. [48 sts]

Rows 37 to 59 Starting on a WS purl row, work in st st.

Row 60 (K2tog, K2) 12 times. [36 sts]

Row 61 Purl.

Row 62 (K2tog, K1) 12 times. [24 sts]

Row 63 Purl.

Row 64 (K2tog) 12 times. [12 sts]

Cast off.

SNOUT

Cast on 37 sts using 4mm needles and Yarn A.

Rows 1 to 5 Starting on a WS purl row, work in st st.

Row 6 K1, (k2tog, K2) 9 times. [28 sts]

Row 7 Purl.

Row 8 K1, (k2tog, K1) 9 times. [19 sts]

Row 9 Purl.

Row 10 K1, (k2tog) 9 times. [10 sts]

Break yarn and thread through rem sts. Pull tight to fasten.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Cast on 9 sts using 4mm needles and Yarn A.

Row 1 and all foll WS rows Purl.

Row 2 K1, (kfb) 8 times. [17 sts]

Row 4 K1, (kfb, K1) 8 times. [25 sts]

Row 6 Knit.

Row 8 K1, (k2tog, K1) 8 times. [17 sts]

Row 10 K1, (k2tog) 8 times. [9 sts]

Row 11 Purl.

Break yarn and thread through rem sts. Pull tight to fasten.

SOLES (MAKE 2)

Cast on 24 sts using 4mm needles and Yarn A.

Rows 1 to 3 Starting on a WS purl row, work in st st.

Row 4 (K1, k2tog) 8 times. [16 sts]

Row 5 Purl.

Row 6 (K2tog) 8 times. [8 sts]

Break yarn and thread through rem sts. Pull tight to fasten.

SCARF

Cast on 12 sts using 4mm needles and Yarn B.

Row 1 (RS) K1, kfb, K7, k2tog, K1.

Row 2 Knit.

Rep Rows 1 to 2 until work measures 60cm.

Cast off.

MAKING UP

Starting at the top of the Head (cast-off end), oversew the row ends of the Body/Head together (this seam runs down centre back of the Body), stopping at the tops of the Legs. Leave the cast-off edge at the top of the Head open for stuffing.

Fold each Leg in half and oversew the row ends together starting at the bottom of one foot and up to the Body but leaving the cast-on edges of the Legs open at the feet.

Stuff the Head, Body and Legs.

Snout Oversew the row ends together to make a circular shape. Sew the cast-on edge of the Snout onto the front of the Head just above the neck, adding a little stuffing underneath the Snout to pad it out as you sew. Embroider the nose with black yarn, using the photograph as a guide. Insert the toy safety eyes just above the Snout. Finish stuffing the Head and oversew the cast-off edge at the top of the Head closed.

Soles Sew the row ends together into a circle and sew the cast-on edge of the Sole to the cast-on edge of the Leg. Check you are happy with the Bear's stuffing before finishing these seams.

Ears Gather the cast-on stitches tog, fold the Ear in half so the cast-on/off edges meet, and sew the row ends onto the top sides of the Head.

Arms Sew the row ends together and stuff (only lightly stuff the tops of the Arms). Sew the cast-on edge of each Arm onto the side of the Body.

Scarf Weave in yarn tails and wrap around the neck, securing with a few stitches if desired.